



# KENT ON SUNDAY

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**INSIDE THIS WEEK'S PAPER**

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# SCHOOLS BUILDING FIRM FINED £17.8M

## Company given £600m County Hall contract hit with huge penalty in Office of Fair Trading bid-rigging probe

By **JENNA PUDELEK**

THE CONSTRUCTION firm awarded a £600 million contract to build 36 secondary schools in Kent was dealt the heaviest fine of 103 companies after an investigation into anti-competitive activities across the building industry.

Kier, which is working in partnership with Kent County Council to deliver the Building Schools for the Future programme in Gravesham, Thanet and Swale, has been ordered to pay £17.8m by the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) after it was found guilty in three cases of 'cover pricing'.

But County Hall said it would not be reviewing its contract with the multinational construction firm.

However, Devon County Council said it was reviewing the actions of four firms found guilty by the OFT, including Kier, which are among 11 contractors involved in its £500m Construction Framework South West partnership to build public sector projects including schools, social housing and museums.

Building Schools for the Future is the Government's capital investment programme aiming to transform education by rebuilding or renewing every secondary school in England.

Kent's programme is the largest in the country and will involve revamping more than 100 secondary and special schools over a 15-year period. Work began on 10 of these last year.

Cllr Paul Carter, KCC's leader and a property developer, said: "I think we've got pretty robust procurement processes and certainly with my knowledge of the construction industry I've been following the OFT investigation very closely."

He said local authorities should not be reviewing contracts with the 103 firms found guilty of breaking competition laws or be considering blacklisting them from future tendering processes.

But a construction industry magazine reported this week that councils in Wales and the South West had blacklisted companies on the list, despite advice from the OFT not to.

Cllr Carter said: "They [councils] just want to make sure they have robust procurement processes, the right tender lists and the right people tendering."

"In the good days before the global recession

CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO

Picture: RUSSELL BURDEN, NEBULO STRATA



## Master of the screen

SIR DEREK JACOBI TRACES DICKENS' LIFE, SEE INSIDE FOR FULL STORY





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**TODAY:** Dry with some bright or sunny spells, but also good deal of cloud. A partly clear evening. Moderate westerly winds. Max temp 13-16C (55-61F).  
**TONIGHT:** Dry with some clear spells and variable amounts of cloud. Light and variable winds. Min temp 7-10C (45-50F).

#### Around Britain

Location	Weather	Temp	Location	Weather	Temp
Aberdeen	fair	11-22	London	fair	10-11
Belfast	cloudy	12-14	Liverpool	fair	13-15
Birmingham	fair	15-20	Manchester	fair	13-15
Bristol	cloudy	16-21	Newcastle	sun	13-15
Cardiff	fair	14-17	Nottingham	sun	16-21
Edinburgh	cloudy	13-15	Oxford	cloudy	15-19
Glasgow	fair	12-14	Southampton	fair	17-23
Isle of Man	fair	13-15	Sheffield	fair	13-15
Leeds	fair	12-14	Southport	fair	14-17
			Sunderland	cloudy	14-17
			Torquay	fair	15-19

#### Sun & moon

Sunrise: 7.01am	Sunset: 5.33pm	Lighting up: 6.01pm
Moonrise: 5.33pm	Moonset: 7.21am	Lighting up: 6.01pm

#### High Tides

Location	Today	Tomorrow
Dover	11:46 6.6 -	00:00 6.5 12:15 6.7
Margate	00:43 4.5 12:43 4.8	01:12 4.5 13:14 4.6
St Mary's	05:24 5.5 17:40 5.7	05:56 5.6 18:12 5.7

#### Week ahead

<b>Monday</b> Cloudy, Dry max 13C min 12C	<b>Thursday</b> Mostly fine max 15C min 7C
<b>Tuesday</b> Showers max 19C min 14C	<b>Friday</b> Sunny spells max 18C min 9C
<b>Wednesday</b> Rain clearing max 18C min 9C	<b>Saturday</b> Cloudy, Dry max 17C min 10C

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#### CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

when firms were working flat out, contractors were very worried about not filling in tender documents for fear of being struck off future lists.

"I don't know the details of the cases, some companies have been found wanting in terms of collaboration through the tender process, which is not good or right. But I haven't read the details ... it's a highly complex area."

Cover-pricing in a tender process is where one or more bidding construction companies is given an artificially high price to use by another firm which is also bidding.

#### Restrictive

The cover bids are not priced in an effort to win the contract but are submitted as genuine bids, which gives a misleading impression to clients with regard to real extent of competition, the OFT said.

Kier was found guilty of cover-pricing in three incidents, but was not awarded the contract in any of the cases.

In August, 2003, the company was among five out of six bidders involved in cover-pricing for a £1,069,000 project to build a nurs-

## Building firm 'disappointed at level of fine'

ery at Westfield Primary School in York.

Another case, in October, 2001, involved a £1,554,000 project at New Primary School in Peterborough. In that case, Kier supplied a cover price to another firm, Jackson.

In September, 2005, the firm supplied another cover price to Jackson, this time as part of a tender to build a distribution centre in Southwold in a project worth £6,370,000.

Cllr Carter stood by the company and said he was "enormously" confident.

A Devon County Council official said: "We are seeking clarification from the four companies about how they were involved [in anti-competitive behaviour]."

She said after the council had more information about what the firms had done, it

would decide how to proceed.

Cllr Carter said: "Personally I'd like Government to look at the Building Schools for the Future and academy programme because local authorities have to use companies on an approved list by central government, which is very restrictive.

"I would like to fragment big contracts so we are able to support local contractors, but the Government won't allow us to do it."

Kier said it was "continuing to assess the OFT's decision and is considering its position".

A spokesman said: "Kier is very disappointed at the level of the fine imposed by the OFT."

"It is the largest fine of any of those investigated, notwithstanding that Kier's infringements were at the lower end of the offences committed and that we co-operated openly with the OFT throughout the investigation."

Last week, Kent on Sunday reported how the company awarded the £17.5m contract to build the Turner Contemporary art gallery in Margate, R Durnell & Sons, which is based near Sevenoaks, had also been breaking competition laws.

The company, which is the oldest building firm in the country, was also found guilty of cover-pricing activities and fined £711,115.

# Storing up trouble

By **JENNA PUDELEK**

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A CAMPAIGN against a planned superstore that protesters say will take trade from a town's historic High Street is gaining momentum.

The protest is over proposals for a Sainsbury's that will take up nearly 6,000 square metres on the site of an old factory on the banks of the Royal Military Canal in Hythe.

David Plumstead, founder of the Kent Environment and Community Network, has organised a town meeting on October 12 to bring together groups protesting against the supermarket and other developments.

"It will kill the High Street," the Hythe resident said. "A proper High Street is needed if a town is going to thrive and stay alive. Our High Street will be dead and full of charity shops and restaurants - that is not a town."

He said he feared for the future of greengrocer Crundens, a family-run business which has been in the town since 1861.

"It's a superb shop and sells fresh produce and gets it locally," he said.

Residents are also concerned the superstore would harm the environment and damage the townscape of the Military Road site.

Hythe resident Doreen McCormack said: "If planning permission is given, the superstore will account for more than 50 per cent of the retail floor space in the town."

**Sainsbury's**  
Try something new today

The campaign has been boosted by news that residents of Holmfirth, a small Yorkshire town best known as the setting of the BBC TV series *Last of the Summer Wine*, have fought off plans for a Tesco store.

On Thursday, it emerged Tesco had withdrawn its application after 1,200 letters of objection were sent to the council raising concerns a superstore would kill off the town's three bakers, butcher and greengrocer and fill its centre with charity shops.

#### Vitality

And on Friday the Competition Commission announced it was recommending a competition test be used for planning decisions on supermarkets. The test would prevent companies with a strong presence in an area from building new stores or making major extensions to existing stores.

It would "bring significant and lasting benefits for consumers", the watchdog said.

Protect Kent's deputy director, Sean Furey, said: "We agree with residents' concerns and challenge Sainsbury's assertion that its store is either wanted or needed."

He said the organisation, which campaigns to protect rural areas, was also concerned about plans to expand the Tesco supermarket

at Cheriton in Folkestone. He said: "Time and again it has been shown that while superstores create some jobs, more are lost as the vitality is drained from town centres."

Mr Furey pointed to a survey carried out by the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) in 2004. It showed that towns across the country had been hit hard by major retail and superstore developments out-of-town, or in bigger neighbouring towns, which had "sucked the life from their high streets".

He said an example in Kent was Westwood Cross at Thanet, which had been detrimental to high streets in Ramsgate and Margate.

The CPRE did find 20 towns that had managed not to be affected by development, including Faversham and Sandwich.

A Shepway council official said: "Any potential effects of a proposed retail development on an existing shopping centre are taken into account before any decision is made."

"The applications would have to meet tests laid down in national planning policy guidance. These measure need, scale, impact and sequential approach [whether there are sites nearer to the existing shopping centre that are available for development]."

"These and other issues will be included in reports being prepared for the development control committee for both the Tesco and Sainsbury's applications and will be considered before councillors make their decision."

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# Sir Derek's delight at Dickens chance

By **STEVE KNIGHT**

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**ACTING** great Sir Derek Jacobi has spoken of his joy at being able to shoot a new documentary on Charles Dickens in Kent.

The multi-award-winning star of stage and screen – who has appeared in such popular films and TV shows as *Gladiator* and *Cadfael* – presents and narrates the Sky Arts 2 programme *Charles Dickens' England*, which recounts the legendary author's years growing up in the county.

Speaking to Kent on Sunday to mark the launch of the project, Sir Derek said the show's producer was right to fight against his original financiers' wishes to concentrate solely on Dickens' connections with London.

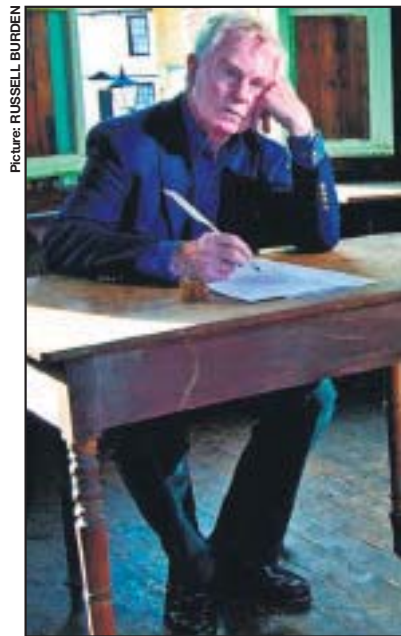
He said: "Dickens was associated so much with Kent, particularly at Gad's Hill [near Rochester] where he lived for so long.

"I think he felt quite at home in the area and quite content, too. He found the landscape beautiful to look at and peaceful to be surrounded by, and it was conducive to his writing.

"But I'm London born and bred, and that aspect of Dickens' life was also very interesting. I saw places I had no idea were there, and it was the same when I came to Kent."

Born in Portsmouth in 1812, Dickens moved to Chatham at the age of five and maintained a close relationship with Kent – where several of his best-loved novels are set – for the rest of his life.

Sir Derek is no stranger to the author's



**DICKENS PROJECT: Sir Derek Jacobi**

work, having starred in the TV adaptations of *Little Dorrit* (1988) and *The Old Curiosity Shop* (2007). He also played the part of Scrooge in Victoria Wood's 2000 Christmas special, and of the ghost of Dickens himself in the 2007 film *The Riddle*.

Sir Derek said: "Presenting was some-

thing I'd never done before and I was very surprised to be asked to front the documentary. But as a lover of Dickens' novels I thought it would be a good opportunity to learn some more about him and to visit a lot of interesting places. It took three weeks to shoot and it was a fascinating experience.

"I went to Chatham, Rochester and Broadstairs, which I thought was beautiful.

"It was good to see quite a lot of Kent. My parents used to bring me to Margate on holiday when I was young, so it was nice to come back after all these years."

Next year will mark the 50th anniversary of Sir Derek becoming a professional actor, and over the years he has starred in everything from Shakespearean plays and murder mysteries to Roman epics and American sitcoms.

His voice is even recognisable to young children through his role as the narrator of the popular *In The Night Garden* series.

But despite turning 71 later this month, Sir Derek has no plans to call it a day.

He said: "Never, never, never. Fortunately when you're in the acting business you don't have to retire. When you're young you get to play the adolescents, when you're middle-aged you get to play the adults and now I've started playing grandfathers.

"You can go on until you drop, which is good because there are a lot of parts out there I still want to play."

**• Charles Dickens' England will be shown in two parts, starting tonight at 7pm on Sky Arts 2.**

News and sport updated daily online  
[www.kentnews.co.uk](http://www.kentnews.co.uk)

## Green black out

A REPORT into the leak that led to the arrest of MP Damian Green is expected to be heavily censored when it is published this month.

Scotland Yard is committed to releasing the internal review, but sections could be blacked out to protect the identities of civil servants and police officers.

According to national newspaper reports, one source has said it "makes MPs' expenses look like a model of transparency".

Ashford Tory MP Mr Green was arrested last November after a Home Office whistleblower admitted leaking immigration documents to him. The case was dropped in April.

## 'Troops out' poll

ABOUT two-thirds of people in Kent are against British troops being sent to Afghanistan. Nearly 2,000 people voted in a poll on our website, [kentnews.co.uk](http://kentnews.co.uk).

They were asked: "In the light of the increasing deaths in Afghanistan, do you believe we should still be sending troops there?"

Some 68 per cent (1,296 people) voted no, while 32 per cent (611) voted yes. Now at [kentnews.co.uk](http://kentnews.co.uk) you can vote on whether Gordon Brown should step down as Labour leader.

To see this clip search 'paws' @ [yourkenttv.co.uk](http://yourkenttv.co.uk)



The Paws in the Park event at the Hop Farm attracted 15,000 visitors with 12,000 dogs

## Gurkha cemetery petition unearths hidden tensions

A COUPLE have handed in a petition demanding the closure of Britain's first-ever Gurkha cemetery.

Peter and Linda Nye sent their petition to Ashford Borough Council, objecting that part of the town's Bybrook cemetery had been set aside exclusively for Gurkhas.

They also objected to the sign put up marking the Gurkha burial area.

Mr Nye said: "When you go to the cemetery the sign is the first thing you see. But the burial site is not for Gurkhas, it's for the people of Ashford. It's a cemetery where local people are buried, including members of my family.

"I don't have a problem with Gurkhas, but no-one else has a sign. Why do they have one?"

The couple sent their 91-signature petition to the council asking it to remove the sign and allow other people to be buried in the Gurkha section. Mrs Nye said: "We object to the fact that we cannot be buried in their part of the cemetery. We want to be buried alongside our loved ones.

"But if there's no room, that can't happen. When I asked if we could be buried in the Gurkha part, I was told 'No'. That isn't fair. I am not a racist, but this is wrong."

A section of the cemetery was set aside after a request was made to Ashford council by the Gurkha community. Many Gurkhas settled in the town after serving

with the British Army at Folkestone.

Gurkha tradition dictates all their dead be buried in the same plot, so the cemetery was opened after they won the right to live in the UK. The Gurkhas are popular with local people and a exhibition about their connections with the town was recently held at the local museum.

But Mr Nye argues local people were not consulted about the decision. He said: "We're supposed to live in a democracy, yet the decision to set aside a part of the cemetery and put up a sign was reached by the executive with no consultation."

His 63-year-old wife said: "I collected the petition from people visiting the cemetery and in the town centre. I had a lot of support. I understand this is a delicate issue and the Gurkhas have a lot of support. But we are just ordinary people who want their views to be heard."

Gomba Sherpa, chairman of the Sagarmatha Gurkha Community in the town, said: "Gurkhas have served this country for 100 years and have a right to settle here. We put all our dead in the same place, that's why we requested the cemetery section, and it doesn't harm anyone putting the sign there."

A council official said the petition had been received and was being considered by the executive.



**SIGN: Gurkha section of cemetery**

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# Health chiefs move to allay cancer jab fears

## Injection benefits outweigh any risks says expert

By **JENNA PUDELEK**

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PARENTS and teenage girls have been urged to continue participating in the cervical cancer vaccination programme following the death of a 14-year-old who had the jab.

Concerns were raised that the death of Coventry schoolgirl Natalie Morton after she was given the human papilloma virus (HPV) jab on Monday could spark widespread fears over all vaccines.

In the South East, NHS West Kent has the highest uptake of the HPV vaccine among 12 to 13-year-olds. The jab protects against the sexually transmitted virus that causes 70 per cent of all cervical cancer.

The primary care trust (PCT) said 92.4 per cent of school year 8s had been vaccinated as part of the immunisation programme between September, 2008, and July, 2009, which compares to the national average of 84.8 per cent.

### Risks

Asked whether he was concerned Natalie's death would affect the high uptake, Dr Declan O'Neill, west Kent's assistant director of public health, said: "Now we have heard this tragic incident was probably not related, and her death was likely to be due to other causes, I guess there will be some who might think twice and other people for who it will reinforce that they want the jab."

"Your guess is as good as mine, but I would think, no. It's for people to sum up the risks."

He pointed to studies that have investigated HPV vaccination programmes around the world and said: "Basically because the risks



**UNDERLYING PROBLEM: Natalie Morton's death is believed to have been caused by a tumour, not the HPV vaccine**

have been well evaluated, statistically the benefits far outweigh any minor risks associated with the vaccines."

At an inquest in Coventry, the coroner said Natalie had died from a malignant tumour of the chest that affected her heart and lungs. The Cervarix vaccine was not thought to have been a contributing factor.

Meanwhile, PCTs in Kent were seeking to reassure parents and young women about the safety of the vaccine in a bid to prevent a repeat of the controversy over the measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) jab, which has caused measles cases to soar over the past decade.

NHS Medway has the lowest uptake of the vaccine, with 81 per cent of 12 to 13-year-olds inoculated.

More than 21,600 girls have been given the cancer vaccine in NHS Eastern and Coastal Kent's area, which equates to 85.7 per cent of the target age group.

A catch-up programme is also immunising older teenagers between 14 and 18. Those aged 17 to 18-years-old have been sent letter from their GPs telling them they are entitled to go for the jab.

Dr O'Neill said: "I think people are now aware the knee-jerk reaction to something like MMR might not be the best thing to do."

"Time has shown the reports were unfounded and that has actually got into social consciousness 10 years ago about the risk and the Government not telling us about it."

"Over time we are able to find out and demonstrate risks are much higher in not immunising and in this part more than other parts of the country we have slipped."

He added: "We do have sudden death in the community and if you are immunising sometimes there is a coincidental effect."

"It is 100 per cent tragic and our hearts go out to the family but it does not appear to be related [to the vaccine] at this stage."

All young women aged 19 on or after September 1 this year are entitled to a free course of the HPV vaccine. Dr O'Neill urged them to visit their GP and take up the offer.

He reminded people that the vaccine does not prevent pregnancy or protect against sexually transmitted infections.

**• If parents or young people are worried about the safety of any vaccine they should speak to their GP or visit [www.immunisation.nhs.uk](http://www.immunisation.nhs.uk) for information.**

## Fire team to aid quake rescue bid

FIREFIGHTERS from Kent are in Indonesia to join the relief effort in Sumatra where an earthquake has killed more than 1,000 people.

Kent Fire and Rescue's specialist urban search and rescue team flew from Gatwick on Friday to help people on the island, which has been devastated by the 7.6 magnitude quake.

Team leader John Mazzei said: "We will be using exactly the same equipment that we train with and use in Kent so we are ready and well prepared."

"One of the team's biggest requirements is patience to deal with the many obstacles that can arise from such a major, devastating incident like this."

The firefighters have special tools to break reinforced concrete and metal to reach survivors.

To watch this clip search 'Dave Lee' @ [yourkenttv.co.uk](http://yourkenttv.co.uk)



The Dave Lee charity golf day is being held at Chart Hills golf club today. Dave Lee, Shaun Williamson and Barry McGuigan talk to Julie Maddocks about the fund-raising event

## Designer sends Lady ga ga



**FAVOURITE: Lady Gaga wore cape designed by Raffaele Ascione (right)**

THE WORK of a young designer has been thrust into the spotlight after style icon of the moment Lady Gaga donned one of his creations for a high-profile launch event.

Raffaele Ascione, who has a BA in fashion design from the University of the Creative Arts in Rochester, said he felt "honoured" to have been chosen by the Grammy nominated, MTV video music award-winning artist.

The 27-year-old said he had already been profiled on Lady Gaga's fashion website where the Just Dance singer talks about her favourite designer of the moment.

The popstar chose to wear a cape designed by Mr Ascione to a launch event at HMV's flagship store Oxford Circus earlier this month, and also borrowed a dress from the designer.

"I was really surprised and quite chuffed," he said. "I'm honoured to be selected for her wardrobe and styling choices."

"It is good to get to dress someone like her that has such an impact with the fashion scene."

The Poker Face singer saw Mr Ascione's designs while visiting Anna Trevelyan, a friend of his who works as a stylist for the fashion magazine Dazed and Confused.

She has asked to meet up with him later in the year so they can work together with her stylist on more designs in the future.



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# Chief Constable says tragedy highlights need for joined-up approach

## Pilkington case vindicates taking robust approach



DEAD: Fiona Pilkington and her daughter Francecca Hardwick

KENT Police's "robust" approach to antisocial behaviour could possibly have saved the lives of a woman who killed herself and her disabled daughter after years of torment by youths, according to the county force's chief constable.

An inquest found that Fiona Pilkington took her own life and that of her daughter, Francecca Hardwick, by setting fire to her car in a lay-by in Leicestershire, "due to stress and anxiety regarding her daughter's future and, ongoing antisocial behaviour".



TOP COP: Michael Fuller of Kent Police

The police and the local authority were criticised for failing to share information about the family, their disabilities and the abuse they were suffering before their deaths in 2007. Asked if their deaths could have been avoided if they lived in Kent, Chief Constable Michael Fuller said: "I would hope so. We now have a robust response to tackling antisocial behaviour. We have teams of officers that deal with it all day – that is their specialist task."

"I hope we would not have an incident like that. We work very closely with local councils. I'm not saying it should be someone else's responsibility. I've always taken antisocial behaviour seriously and we deal with it robustly."

The inquest into the Pilkington tragedy has pushed antisocial behaviour to the top of the agenda and Prime Minister Gordon Brown and Home Secretary Alan Johnson promised a new crackdown on the issue at

By **JENNA PUDELEK**

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the Labour Party conference this week.

Kent Police have been focusing on tackling antisocial behaviour for more than a year and introduced their first Neighbourhood Task Teams at the end of 2007 in Medway and east Kent.

After its success, in September, 2008, six teams made up of a sergeant and five constables were working across Kent, providing a rapid response to community concerns in the six districts of Kent.

Antisocial behaviour has dropped by 7.1 per cent and public confidence in the police was at 91 per cent in the areas where the teams were active. There are now 14 task teams on the streets of Kent tackling the

problems residents have said are their top issues. Speaking about his decision to make tackling antisocial behaviour a priority, Mr Fuller said: "I was looking at how we as a force could improve public confidence."

"I was aware we'd been successful in reducing crime and disorder – there are 15,000 fewer crimes than last year – but we still have very high levels of fear of crime, disproportionately so compared with other forces of a similar size."

"It was also evident from letters I was getting from the public that we – as with many forces – still had a problem with antisocial behaviour."

He said antisocial behaviour took various forms, including youths behaving in a rowdy and disorderly way, to antisocial and reckless driving by 'boy racers' in town centres and youths using mini motorcycles in rural

areas. There were lots of examples in Kent, he said, of people making others' lives a misery. He talked about an extreme case involving a couple he knows personally who were forced to move out of their home because of antisocial behaviour.

"In that case the parents supported the children, even though they were in the wrong," he said. "There was criminal damage, stones thrown at this couple's windows and they were forced to move as a result. I don't need to be convinced that it can ruin the quality of lives of residents."

Alongside the task teams, Mr Fuller talked to the chief executives of Kent's local authorities and they jointly launched a year-long campaign to tackle antisocial behaviour.

### Impact

Specialist teams of officers focus on antisocial behaviour and low-level crime such as criminal damage and damage to vehicles.

Mr Fuller admitted that before they were introduced such low-level offences often did not get the highest priority attention and officers responded to one-off calls rather than long-term problems.

Kent Police Authority approved an increase in police council tax to fund the teams and the force has been making savings so the number of officers could be increased to 80, Mr Fuller said.

He added: "We want to send a clear message that police will work with local councils to tackle antisocial behaviour in a very robust way."

"We will continue to do that. Now we have the neighbourhood task teams we know they are having an impact. There is a reduction in calls and people reporting that their quality of life is improving."

"It has to be carried out jointly – antisocial behaviour is a multi-agency problem that has to be tackled in a multi-agency way."

• **The Chief Constable answers readers' questions – see pages 8 and 9.**

## Kent case study: Eileen Hutton

A WOMAN with a habit of yelling and swearing at anyone she sees has been served with a five-year Asbo.

Eileen Hutton, 53, of Northcote Road, Strood, was given the antisocial behaviour order after causing persistent problems.

It prevents her from shouting threatening, abusive or insulting language that causes harassment, alarm or distress to any person not of the same household as herself.

Hutton has been in police custody 19 times already during 2009. Since October 1 last year, Kent Police have received 146 calls about her behaviour.

On May 21, Hutton pleaded guilty to four charges of assault on police officers and two charges of harassment. She was initially given a community order, which

has now led to the Asbo. Medway police's antisocial behaviour officer, Peter Jackson, said: "Hutton has caused misery for families who have been victims of her intimidating and threatening behaviour. I would like to thank the witnesses whose co-operation was essential for our success in this case."

Chief Insp Peter de Lozey said: "Hutton has caused persistent problems for neighbours and law-abiding people in Strood."

"A five-year Asbo is a significant step in improving the quality of those people's lives. I urge anyone who sees her breaking the conditions of the order to contact the police."

If Hutton breaches her Asbo she will be taken to court. If she continually breaks the Asbo the maximum penalty is a £5,000 fine or five years in prison.



ABUSIVE: Hutton

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# Grape growers enjoy the pick of the bunch

By **CHRIS MURPHY**  
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

WHILE the summer was a bit of a washout for sunseekers this year, the wine trade has been cheering the mixed weather.

It has been a great few months for grape growers, and last Monday an army of fruit pickers started tackling vineyards across the county.

The wineries stop just short of calling it a bumper season, but they could not be much happier, saying they are "quietly optimistic".

The crop will be significantly higher than the previous two years, and of better quality.

Kent has provided the perfect summer weather for grapes, with a good balance of rain and sun from the end of June to the start of July – just when vine flowering occurs.

These flowers self-pollinate, form grape clusters and then grow into fruit. The dry, mainly warm summer has ripened the fruit to levels required to make world class wines.

In a few years' time dinner tables should be hosting the Kentish wine – the experts reckon the current harvest should allow the industry to produce at least three million bottles of still and sparkling wine ready for 2014.

We are short of France's eight billion, but England's 416 winegrowers, including several in Kent, have steadily increased plantings.



wine has become desirable not just here but in the US, Hong Kong and Japan.

"Wines from areas such as Kent replicate the taste of champagne because they use the 'holy trinity' of champagne grapes: pinot noir, chardonnay and pinot meunier, in a region with the perfect soil and climate.

"We'll be picking our grapes right through October, so it's really too early to say whether this will be a bumper year, but everyone is quietly optimistic."

Success for companies like Chapel Down is tempting others to follow the dream and open their own vineyards – and some farmers are looking to switch crops.

According to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, there are 1,106 hectares of land now dedicated to grape growing – a rise of 45 per cent on 2005.

John Warde of Squerries Estate in Westerham, who has an 11.5 hectare vineyard on his mainly dairy and arable farm, said: "Grape growing is far more than a hobby; it is a very useful commercial enterprise."

Chapel Down products are sold at Waitrose and Majestic Wine, among others, and the company has 25 acres and can source grapes from a further 180 acres across the South East region to produce half a million bottles.

It is doing so well, it was named Best Product in Kent at the Taste of Kent Awards 2008, and is Kent Small and Medium Enterprise of the Year 2009.

See [www.englishwinesgroup.co.uk](http://www.englishwinesgroup.co.uk).

**TOP OF THE CROPS:** Pickers are out in force collecting grapes to make Kent wine

One of the county's best known vineyards is Chapel Down, in Tenterden, which is the UK's largest producer of English wines.

Boss Frazer Thompson said: "English wine, especially our sparkling wine, has become an international force to be reckoned with.

"Our fizz regularly beats traditional champagnes at international competitions. English

## Just 25 sign up in support of porn teacher

A PETITION has been set up calling for a teacher at the centre of a gay porn row to be allowed to return to work.

Sam Handley, 25, was suspended from Folkestone's Harvey Grammar School after semi-naked pictures of him were found online and quickly passed between pupils.

Friends and family fear the PE teacher may lose his job over the risqué shots, which they say he posed for years before even considering a career in education.

However, the petition set up on the iPetitions website has so far been signed by just 25 people.

It reads: "He (Mr Handley) understands it was a mistake and I can confirm they were not meant to appear on the internet.

### Explain

"Sam is not gay and does have a girlfriend, but this should not matter either way. He has put so much hard work into his teaching, is passionate about it, and received a high grade in his final assessment.

"None of the pupils at the school want to lose him as a teacher, and I hope their parents are willing to back them up too.

"Sam has all his friends and family behind him, and I hope this petition is a way to prove it is not only them."

It is claimed Mr Handley came into work unaware the images had been spread among students before headteacher Bill Wright was alerted to them.

In the pictures, a man calling himself Mike is seen with his legs apart.

Mr Handley's sister Sophie told our sister paper Your shepway her brother would explain the incident at a later stage.

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# It's a question of being

**As part of our behind the scenes look at the work of Kent Police, Chief Constable Michael Fuller agreed to answer questions direct from readers through our pages. Here are a selection, there will be more next week. If you have a question for the Chief Constable, email [editorial@kosmedia.co.uk](mailto:editorial@kosmedia.co.uk) and we will pass the question on and print the answer.**

**When the public are consulted on what they want the police to do, we often hear the phrase "more bobbies on the beat". Do you think this is a realistic request and that it even helps to cut crime?**

Lorraine Bryant, Herne Bay

My researchers have carried out extensive work with the people of Kent to enable us to understand their concerns.

It is clear one of the top priorities is around the visibility of those tackling crime and anti-social behaviour, and I believe that the solution comes from a mix of roles within both the police and the local authorities. We are working with them to reduce crime and increase public confidence.

We also use our Neighbourhood Teams of police officers and Community Safety Units to carry out patrols on foot.

That means they are able to have direct contact with the public.



**What progress is there in the investigation into the murder of David O'Leary?**

D Amrong, Ramsgate

We are continuing to investigate this murder, and the case is regularly reviewed by the Serious Case Team.

We have kept the family fully informed of the developments relating to the investigation.

At the moment we are waiting for the inquest to take place to formally decide the cause of death. This is something which has to be decided by the coroner.

**How successful do you think the introduction of PCSOs, Community Wardens, Rural Wardens and the slew of other uniformed officers has been over the last few years? Wouldn't most people, police officers included, rather simply see more police on the beat?**

Jadranko Markovic, Canterbury

There are a number of initiatives taking place to respond to the feedback I have received from the public about the way their county is policed.

Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs), Community Wardens and others, including our partners, such as councils, have made a significant contribution to improving public confidence, and reducing crime and

anti-social behaviour. Not all of the problems identified by the community are police matters and therefore it is essential we work with partners such as local councils.

Our research with the residents of Kent shows that as a result of this they feel considerably safer.

**Why is Kent Police so keen on neighbourhood task teams?**

H Talbot, Ashford

The task teams are an essential part of neighbourhood policing but they also have a specialist role in the tackling of anti-social behaviour.

They deal with local priorities, set by the public.

Where there is a particular problem they deal with it, if necessary over a period of weeks or months.

When the teams were first introduced as a trial in some areas of Kent they achieved a dramatic reduction in anti-social behaviour and a significant rise in public confidence. As a result they were then introduced across the entire county.

This has achieved such success the Policing Minister came to Kent to see it in action and asked for a briefing from me to better understand how it could be used by other forces.

**What is the policy in terms of responding to incidents of low-level**

## We join officers

**TRAVELLING** at speeds in excess of 120mph to emergencies and arresting drunk drivers is an everyday occurrence for Kent's Road Policing Unit, but for our reporter *Anna White*, a day with our traffic cops proved to be more eventful than she had expected...

While spending an eight-hour shift patrolling Kent's roads in an unmarked police car, I expected a few motorists to be pulled over, but within just six hours nine people were stopped for various driving offences,

most were fined and there was one arrest.

During the first two hours Sergeant James Derham and PC Geoff Greenwhite fined one girl who was texting while driving at 70mph, a teenager who was talking on the phone while driving, a man for not wearing his seatbelt, and three men for speeding.

Each of the speeding motorists was asked to sit in the police car to see proof of their dangerous speed and to have the chance to explain themselves. The conversations are all similar; the driver admits driving too fast, accepts the fine and then panics about losing their job and all the other consequences.

The tone from the officers was friendly but serious as they ask what the need for going

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For all our Traffic Regulation Orders, please go to pages **66 & 67**



# open with us

**crime (car break-ins etc)? It seems too often friends report incidents only for no action to be taken and rarely even a visit from an officer.**

T Nugent, Sittingbourne

We take all incidents that are reported to us seriously. These are dealt with on a case-by-case basis and assessed against the level of resources available at any particular time.

We have three criteria when making that decision:

- Immediate calls are those that require an immediate response because there is a threat to life or a crime is in progress.
- High calls are where a prompt response will locate an offender, reduce a possible risk or prevent a crime taking place.
- Scheduled calls are for when response time is not critical and the best use of our resources means we can make an appointment.

In the case of vehicle crime, burglary or theft, if the incident falls into the scheduled category then trained investigators carry out a telephone interview and then pass the details to the local Crime and Incident Management Unit, where it is reviewed by trained officers.

If they decide a face-to-face interview will help the investigation, or the victim is believed to be vulnerable, an officer will go to speak to them.

**Do you feel that the police are respected by most law abiding people at present or has the feeling of trust lessened over the years?**

Michael Dean, Folkestone

When Sir Robert Peel founded the police service it was on the basis of 'policing by consent'. This concept is still central to Kent's approach to policing today.

Public confidence in the police is the key measure of our success. If people are confident that we treat people fairly and with respect, that we know what their priorities are and that we are dealing with them, then we feel we are succeeding as a service.

We feel it is important to monitor people's perceptions of how well we are meeting these demands for residents, visitors and workers. The majority of Kent residents, 82 per cent, say the police would treat them with respect if they had to contact them for any reason and 93 per cent of people say Kent Police is fair. In addition, 85 per cent of victims are satisfied with the overall service they received from Kent Police.

We are also working on being amongst the best in the country for dealing with the issues that matter to people in their area.

We are focused on ensuring we know what matters to people, are dealing with these things and making

local people aware of the results of these actions.

Public confidence in Kent Police has improved. We are now 18th out of 43 forces for public confidence. We are aiming to be in the top 10.

I feel this is something we can achieve by working closely with communities to ensure we deal with issues that will improve the quality of life for all residents.

**How well equipped is Kent Police to deal with online crime such as cyber bullying and fraud?**

Jeremy Holbrook, Canterbury

Our serious Economic Crime Unit investigates the criminal use of the internet.

These detectives work alongside forensic experts who are able to obtain evidence from computers to show how criminals have used them. There is currently no offence of cyber bullying so prosecutions are brought under existing laws such as the misuse of communications and harassment.

When cases are reported, our Communications Intelligence Unit works to provide the evidence to bring a prosecution. We also work closely with the finance and communications industries, not only to prosecute those who misuse the internet but also to stop criminal activity and to promote responsible online behaviour.



# patrolling roads

too fast was, and remind the drivers of the risks they are taking by driving dangerously.

Sgt Derham said: "People are usually receptive and admit what they have done wrong, but you do get the odd one who wants to argue it. Sometimes people suggest we should be catching murderers instead of stopping people without a seatbelt, but our job is to save lives on the road."

To catch the speeding motorists meant hitting high speeds ourselves, but it was when the officers responded to an emergency call that PC Greenwhite's high speed training really showed. Although they had checked I was comfortable with speed beforehand, when we reached about 120mph I was grateful to have a police hat nearby to hide behind.

But within minutes the emergency call was abandoned as another patrol got there first and PC Greenwhite returned to normal speed... until the next time.

Near the end of the shift I had seen more than I had expected, but it was a flat tyre that proved to be the most eventful stop.

## Procedure

Sgt Derham spotted the deflated tyre on a people-carrier-style car, which was heading toward Chatham, and decided to pull the driver over to let him know. As a procedure the officers ran a check on the vehicle, which showed the car had no MOT.

While PC Greenwhite checked the car and talked to driver he smelt alcohol, and almost inevitably a breath test proved the man was over the limit. He was arrested on the spot.

He was taken to Medway Police Station, where it took two-hours to take a blood sample at the man's request (at 48mg/100 he was over the legal drink-drive limit of 35mg but if it's under 50 the person can elect to have a blood or urine sample taken) then process him before he was released on bail.

In this case the man was dropped off at his home and then it was time to head back to



**ON PATROL:** PC Greenwhite drives the car

the unit's base at Coldharbour in Aylesford, just outside Maidstone, but not before the officers stopped a motorcyclist for travelling at more than 100mph, who will now be summoned to court.

To me it was an eye-opener to see how many people risk both their own life and the lives of others, but to Sgt Derham and PC Greenwhite it was an average shift of catching motorists who chose to break the law.

Sgt Derham added: "We don't just stop people for the sake of it, it's because we want to reduce the amount of deaths and accidents that happen on Kent's roads."

"We are the ones who have to tell the families their loved one has been involved in a collision or – even worse – died, and it is not a nice thing to do. The message we are trying to push is to take more care on the roads and save more lives."

The entire Kent Roads Policing Unit establishment is made up of 147 officers with 25 motorcycles and about 22 cars.

• Police have confirmed that the man who gave the blood sample is due to appear in court later this month after he returned a positive result.

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# Challenge is thrown down to stereotypes

By **STEVE KNIGHT**

[steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk](mailto:steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk)

**NEGATIVE** stereotypes of homeless people will be kicked to the kerb in a multi-media exhibition in Tunbridge Wells.

The two-week Hidden Voices attraction features written stories, audio soundbites and photographs of some of the town's less fortunate residents, and will attempt to make people think twice before speaking badly about them.

The exhibition at the Trinity Arts Centre is the brainchild of former homeless worker Joelle Laws.

She said: "I'm mainly hoping to raise awareness of homelessness because a lot of people in Tunbridge Wells don't realise it's an issue at all."

"I'm hoping that by individualising people and telling their stories that others will feel some empathy towards them."

"It's hugely important because it's dangerous for one group of people to assume they are superior to another. Some people are just more vulnerable than others, I don't think we can afford to just write them off."

Ms Laws said she decided to set up



**TRUE LIVES:** Paul is one of the many homeless people pictured

the exhibition earlier this year following Tunbridge Wells council's decision to turn down a planning

application for an eight to 12-bed night shelter in Southborough.

She explained: "I wasn't saddened by the shelter being turned down because I thought it was the right decision. What I was saddened by was the comments made by people who objected to it."

"For example, some people wrote objections that crime would increase, young children and the elderly would be put at risk and that homeless people would leave drugs and needles lying around."

"Suggestions that homeless people are by their very nature dangerous and must be avoided are wrong."

The exhibition will be on October 13, and is run in conjunction with the social housing provider the Town and Country Foundation.

It also features pictures taken by local photographer Pat Pope, who has worked with the likes of Radiohead, David Bowie and the Backstreet Boys.

Ms Laws interviewed a number of homeless people for the attraction, and described some of their stories as "heartbreaking".

She added: "Some people were very emotional. One in particular lost her son in a house fire and that was what led to her losing her home. You can tell just from the tone of her voice what a hard time she has had."

## Cinderella fraud at society lecture

**FRAUD** will be under the spotlight when the Commissioner of Police for the City of London Mike Bowron gives the University of Kent's annual Kent Law Society lecture.

Entitled Fraud and Economic Crime - Cinderella Shall go the Ball!, the annual event will be held at the Woolf Lecture Theatre, Woolf College, on the university's Canterbury campus.

The Commissioner says fraud has traditionally not been a priority, as it was regarded as the 'Cinderella' of policing on the basis it is a white-collar crime that only affects business.

The Commissioner will explain how this situation has changed in recent times.

The lecture on Wednesday, October 14, at 6pm, is free and open to all.

## Shows tune in to young needs

**YOUNGSTERS** at the Demelza children's hospice have been given instruments from the vaults of a number of West End musicals such as Les Miserables, Phantom of the Opera, and My Fair Lady.

The instruments have been donated to the hospice in Sittingbourne by theatre producer Cameron Mackintosh.

Demelza music therapist Jane O'Neill said: "Music therapy is such an important part of the care we provide for the children here at Demelza."

Phantom of the Opera celebrates its 23rd birthday on Friday, October 9, and Demelza supporters can buy a special package for £100 that includes a ticket and two-course dinner. Call the booking office 0844 4825158 and quote Demelza.

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## Firm's given fine for death of man crushed at work

A COMPANY has been fined £150,000 after the "easily preventable" death of an employee.

Nigel Harrison, a vehicle spray-painter at North Kent Shotblasting in Northfleet, was crushed to death when a 975kg metal plate he was due to seal and paint fell on top of him.

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) prosecuted and the company was ordered to pay the six-figure fine and £24,000 in costs at Maidstone Crown Court on Tuesday.

David Fussell, a HSE inspector, said: "The fatal injuries to Mr Harrison were easily preventable and the incident came about through a combination of events, which included the reliance on a fatally flawed system of work and the company's complete lack of control over employee's safety. This resulted in employees deciding for themselves on how best to secure these heavy metal plates.

"HSE will not tolerate employers exposing their employees to unacceptable risks at work."

Mr Harrison died on October 20, 2006, and the company pleaded guilty at Maidstone Crown Court in February to breaching the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974.

Mr Fussell said that 'crush and trap' injuries were a common cause of manufacturing incidents.

More than 8,000 injuries and 24 deaths have occurred in the motor vehicle repair industry in the last five years, the HSE said.

## Fugitive is finally caught in America

A COLOMBIAN jewel thief has been arrested in America more than four years after escaping from Standford Hill open prison on Sheppey.

Juan Carlos Guzman-Betancourt, 33, escaped after persuading jailors to let him out for a dental appointment, on June 6, 2005.

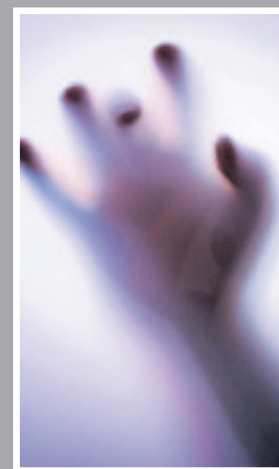
He had been sentenced to three-and-a-half years in prison for conning staff at a number of high-class London hotels into thinking he was a guest who had either lost his room keys or forgotten his security code.

Prosecutors at the time estimated Guzman-Betancourt stole at least £150,000 of jewellery, cash and other expensive goods in Britain alone, and up to £500,000 worldwide. He was also wanted in Canada, Colombia, Japan, Mexico, Russia, Thailand and Venezuela.

The conman was picked up by American police in the state of Vermont, near the US-Canadian border, and is being held on charges of re-entering the country after being deported.

Prosecutors say he potentially faces deportation to Colombia.

# Kent – the home of ghosts, ghouls, and things that go bump in the night



IT SEEMS you can't move around the county for too long before you bump into something in the night – and the chances are it's going to be a phantom or poltergeist.

By **CHRIS MURPHY**

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

In fact, it appears Kent, with its 12 phantoms and three poltergeists, has more spooks than anywhere else in the UK.

That's the finding of priest Lionel Fanthorpe, in what is being called the most comprehensive study into paranormal activity in the UK in the last 25 years.

A girl's ghost on Blue Bell Hill, near Maidstone, and two spooks at Charles Darwin's house top of his list, while another in Faversham can make some people's hair stand on end.

Mr Fanthorpe, 74, said: "One of the most amazing stories in Kent comes from Down House [Darwin's home near Orpington]. One of the ghosts there is very unusual. It is the ghost of a girl who was accidentally drowned in the lake there.

"According to witnesses, the ghost of the girl looks soaking wet. She does not leave trails of physical water behind, but they say she is dripping water as she moves along. It appears as she has just come out of the lake."

He said another at the same venue involves a staircase.

### Unexplained

Mr Fanthorpe said: "A man ended his life by tragically hanging himself on the stairs. There are some very sensitive visitors to Down House who have felt his presence as they pass this section of the stairs.

"They feel the real terror that he left behind with his disturbed mind when he realised he couldn't go on any more. It's like this feeling has lingered there where it happened."

He has compiled a national list of the key sightings of things like big cats, ghosts, werewolves, aliens, UFOs and even time slips. The report was commissioned for the release of TV drama Fringe on DVD, which features FBI agents investigating unexplained phenomena.

The information was gathered from archives, police reports, published reports and interviews with a number of former police officers.

Mr Fanthorpe said that in Kent in 1997, another ghost was spotted in the Guildhall in Faversham.

He said: "There were members of a committee meeting in one of the rooms at the Guildhall. They heard strange

footsteps even though they were the only ones in the building.

"On investigation nothing or no-one was found, but once the meeting resumed the footsteps came back and continued throughout the proceedings."

But one of the best-known spooks in the county is the ghost of Blue Bell Hill who has appeared in front of many motorists.

They think they have run a girl over as she calmly gazes them in the eye, but when they stop to investigate there is no-one there.

Coach driver Ian Sharpe reported a woman running in front of his car in 1992, and he clipped her.

Looking under the car and in the bushes nothing was found, so he reported the incident to Maidstone police who also found nothing.

In 1974, motorist Maurice Goodenough, a bricklayer then aged 35, from Rochester, believed he hit a girl of about 10 with his car. He said he wrapped her in a blanket as she moaned for her mother.

Thinking it best not to move, her he dashed to Rochester police station as there were no mobiles then, and few phone boxes. A search that night and the morning after with tracker dogs failed to find any trace or scent of her.

It became a major mystery when linked to a 1965 crash on the road when three out of four women died in a two-car smash.

As a man of the cloth, Mr Fanthorpe said he is not sure yet if he is a full believer.

He said: "It's so strange that it happens so repeatedly.

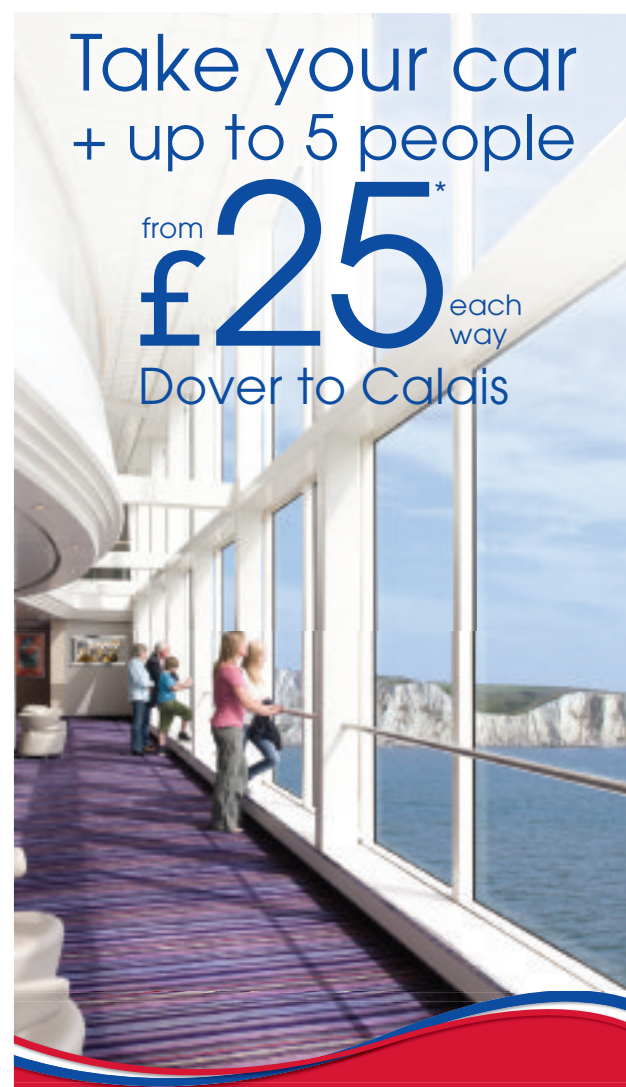
"There are a number of more traditional fundamentalist church people who think that anything that is remotely paranormal is from the dark side and evil. Horror films always put that side forward.

"I don't think for a moment that it does. One of God's greatest gifts to all of us is healthy curiosity. I am totally open-minded. I like to think of myself as an honest person on a jury weighing up the evidence."

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**BEST:** The Three Chimneys retains the Good Pub Guide's Best Dining Pub title it won last year

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# Judges happy to give pub second serving of award

By **CHRIS MURPHY**

[editorial@kosmedia.co.uk](mailto:editorial@kosmedia.co.uk)

A WATERING hole has been named the Best Dining Pub in Kent for the second year running.

The award was served up by the Good Pub Guide 2010.

Winner the Three Chimneys in Biddenden is run by licensee Craig Smith, 46, who has owned it for 10 years.

### Incredible

He said: "I was delighted when we won this award last year, but to get it again for the second year running is incredible.

"It is rare too. I am not sure if it has happened too many times. I don't like the term gastro-pub, but we are a pub that sells very good food.

"The people from the Good Pub Guide don't tell you when they are coming, which is a good indication of how well the chef and all the staff have done to keep us on top."

When Mr Smith bought the pub a decade ago, he took on head chef Gary Gladman and girlfriend Kirsty Holmfjord as manageress.

Mr Smith said: "It is a great testament to

them and this pub that they are still here.

"Staff in this industry tend to move around a lot so it's great they are both still with me. I think they may be with me for another 10 years – this is an award for them really, because they are so good at what they do.

"We are also in the Michelin Guide, which is an award on its own.

"It is always nice to get awards rather than complaints. This is an old-fashioned pub that happens to sell really good food.

"The Guide said the Three Chimneys is doing well, despite all the doom and gloom, and pubs in general are showing they have plenty of life yet.

Editor Fiona Stapley said: "Around four to five per cent pubs have closed in this last year.

"Though this is grim news, it isn't in fact far out of line with the three per cent rate of job losses in the private sector as a whole – bearing in mind that a failing pub is likely to have had fewer staff than a thriving one.

"And the closure rate certainly doesn't compare badly with the five to six per cent contraction in the national economy."

The guide found Britain most expensive county for a pint is Surrey with an average of £3.01, with Kent cheaper at £2.85.

The Good Pub Guide 2010 is published by Ebury Press at £14.99.



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| 3 DW Sports Fitness (1st floor) | 15 Ernest Jones                        | 27 Bakers Oven                           |
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## Acclaimed Japanese classical composer remembers his time at college

# The maestro returns

By **JENNA PUDELEK**

jenna.pudelek@kosmedia.co.uk

A RENOWNED Japanese composer has returned to the private school in Kent he attended as a teenager as part of a documentary about his life and music.

Dai Fujikura was 15-years-old and spoke no English when he left behind the skyscrapers of Osaka and arrived at Dover College, which is sited in the grounds of a 12th century Benedictine Priory.

Now aged 32 and a leading figure in contemporary classical music, he came back to the boarding school on Tuesday along with a Japanese television crew who are spending six months filming him for a documentary due to air next year.

### Connections

Mr Fujikura said he experienced an enormous culture shock when he first arrived in Kent. Everything was different, from the food and the language, to the fact that as an only child he had never had to share a room before.

He believes it was music that allowed him to make connections with the other students.

"I enjoyed it very much," he said. "It was interesting because when I arrived I did not speak any English so everything was difficult."

"Homework, everything, imagine learning Japanese for your GCSEs. But I remember when I did my first concert here, immediately after people were very friendly and were helping me more with my homework."



**WELCOME BACK:** Dai Fujikura with his former housemaster, Mike Vanderhoeven

"It is a bit cheesy but I felt it was the power of the music that helped me then. I was the new boy and I didn't speak the language and one evening that drastically changed. I will never forget that."

Mr Fujikura, who stayed at Dover College until he was 18, went on to study with Daryl Runswick at Trinity College of Music and at the Royal College of Music with Edwin Roxburgh.

He said he had loved music from an early age and while at Dover the teachers encouraged him to develop his talents, even allowing him to slip away to concerts in Canterbury and London and turning a blind eye if he skipped lessons to practice.

"I got away with a lot from my housemaster," said Mr Fujikura, who lives in London. "It was because I was practising, not smoking or taking drugs, so no-one cared."

Mike Vanderhoeven, his former housemas-

ter, said: "He is right that we turned a blind eye to some of the things he did, I would let him off games so that he could practice his music, which he did every day."

"Right from the start it was clear he was going to be a professional musician and at the college we were keen to allow him to develop and to express himself."

He described Mr Fujikura as a popular young man, who became close friends with one of the English students who has gone on to become a choral scholar now living and working in Japan.

"Dai was a delightful young man from the moment he joined us at 17," he said. "He had little English but was clearly a prodigious musical talent. He played the piano and scored one of the highest marks ever awarded for the grade eight examination."

The film crew will now follow Mr Fujikura as he travels to concerts in Strasburg and Chicago. The documentary is due to be released in Japan next February.

Mr Vanderhoeven added: "It's always lovely to see our old pupils and we have followed Dai's career with a mixture of pride and interest."

"In February he had a piece played at the Royal Festival Hall and we were able to take a bus load of our musicians to the concert and surprise Dai. It was a memorable experience."

Mr Fujikura's music has been described as "bold, energetic and colourful, exciting to play and to hear".

His concert music includes Frozen Heat, Stream State, which was performed in Germany, Austria, Italy and Japan during 2006, and Crushing Twister with which he made his BBC Proms debut in the same year.

## Move to ditch crossing tolls to stop jams

PLANS to scrap the Dartford tolls for motorists entering Kent are being actively considered by the Government.

In a letter to Essex Tory MP James Brokenshire, transport minister Sadiq Khan revealed the proposal was one of several being looked at to tackle congestion at the crossing.

There are currently no such plans to scrap charges for motorists leaving Kent through the tunnels.

Speaking to BBC Radio Kent on Friday, Mr Brokenshire said he was pleased something was finally being done.

He said: "The roads around the Dartford Crossing are some of the worst congested in the country, as anyone who has been driving for some time will tell you. It's especially bad on a Friday night when the queues stretch back miles and miles into Essex."

### Complained

"The information is now there that the Government needs to take action and listen to the motorists who have complained about the problems and the delays for years."

When the Queen Elizabeth II Bridge was built in 1991, the Conservative government of the time promised motorists they would no longer be charged to cross the Thames once the cost of the construction had been met.

However, the tolls remained once the debt was cleared in 2003 and late last year road-users were even hit with increased charges at certain parts of the day.

Mr Brokenshire said: "We shouldn't be popping the champagne corks just yet because this review is going to last 18 months, but the fact the Government is looking at scrapping the tolls in one direction is good news."



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By **CHRIS MURPHY**

THE days of belonging only to your local library and no other are over thanks to the pioneering work of Kent's head of libraries.

And now we can all borrow books from any of the thousands of libraries in the UK – and all we need is our home library card.

Cath Anley is not only head of libraries, archives and museums in Kent, but is also secretary of the Society of Chief Librarians, which developed the scheme.

### Complex

She said: "It makes sense that we should be able to use any library anywhere, and just use our existing library card as ID."

Now we can all use the 4,000 libraries across England, Wales and Northern Ireland no matter where you live, thanks to the new scheme introduced by top librarians.

There are 101 libraries in the Kent County Council area along with 11 mobile libraries used by around 255,554 active borrowers.

# New scheme will let you book in at any of UK's 4,000 libraries



A TOP IDEA: Cath Anley

In Medway there are 16 libraries plus a mobile, used by around 50,000 active borrowers. But the number of users could now rocket thanks to the new system.

Ms Anley said: "This is a good thing because people can lead complex lives and can be in any part of the country at any time to live, work or study. We want everyone to know that every library is now their local library no matter where they are."

"They can go into any library and get access to its services. We feel this is very important."

"If your life takes you into another authority, why shouldn't you get to use the library?"

"We hope to introduce a national library card, but this is going to be complex and expensive because there are so many different systems being used which makes it hard to standardise. But this will be something to look at in the long term."

The Society of Chief Librarians said it may also be possible to borrow items from one library and return them to another.

Culture minister Margaret Hodge is also preparing to unveil plans to set up a sort of postal rental system where people can order books or DVDs online and then post back when finished in a pre-paid envelope.

Other proposals include better opening hours, and even book sales.

## Woman held over dodgy rug deals

A 59-YEAR-OLD woman has been arrested on suspicion of theft following reports from across the county that people have been coerced into purchasing rugs and carpets.

Kent police in Medway and Trading Standards are leading the investigation and on Monday seized more than 400 rugs from a property in Maidstone.

The woman, also from the county town, has been bailed until November 30, pending further police inquiries.

Anyone who believes they may have been approached by a woman selling rugs and carpets can contact DC Elmore or DC Weatherstone on 01634 792682.

THE Tunbridge Wells branch of Oxfam has urged people to support the charity's latest appeal in response to the food crisis in East Africa, where more than 23 million people are starving due to the region's five-year drought.

Norma Morris, manager of the shop, said: "This is the worst humanitarian crisis Oxfam has seen in the region for more than 10 years."

"We can turn things around, but we need to act now before it is too late."

Oxfam said it is expanding its aid effort to reach more than 750,000 people, but it needs funds to do the work.



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The Happy Halloween and Freak Week culminates on Friday, October 30, with the grand launch of the fantastic Treejumpers Xtreme Zone. The adventure company specialises in aerial adventure, outdoor sports and team-building exercises for the family.

On top of the full schedule of Halloween fun, the Treejumpers Xtreme Zone will be offering a range of free activities for all visitors on Friday – including zip wiring, air rifles, archery and a climbing wall – the only problem will be finding the time to fit it all in.

KOS Media has 10 family tickets to give-away for the Hop Farm. To enter, simply answer the question below and send your entry on a postcard along with your email address (if applicable), name, address, and daytime telephone number to Hop Farm Competition, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR.

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**Question: When is Happy Halloween and Freak Week at the Hop Farm?**

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## The elderly have to find their voice

By **JENNA PUDELEK**

[jenna.pudelek@kosmedia.co.uk](mailto:jenna.pudelek@kosmedia.co.uk)

OLDER people need to have their voices heard and be able to influence policy decisions, according to the man given the job of being their 'champion'.

Full of Life, which was this year's theme for UK Older People's Day on Thursday, aimed to celebrate the contribution pensioners make to society and the economy.

Cllr Mike Angell, Kent County Council's champion for the elderly, said he wanted to promote the life-long learning opportunities available in the county, and the benefits of better relations between the generations.

The annual national day is held to tackle outdated stereotypes, and raise the profile about issues affecting older people.

"I think it is perhaps the attitude of young people to older people and also the attitude of older to younger people," Cllr Angell said.

"There is the question of older people being able to help each other because there are certain areas where it is difficult, such as groups where they do not necessarily need services but are lonely and isolated.

"One of the issues that always comes top of the list is transport and communication.

### Depressing

"There are more and more rural areas where post offices and pubs are closing, the sorts of places where people congregate, and it can be very depressing."

There are already three older people's forums established in the east of Kent which channel opinions to Cllr Angell, and he said he wanted to set up more in the west.

Cllr Angell said the Government classes an 'older person' as anyone over 50. However, he said the people who attended the forums tend to be older and generally in retirement.

"When people are isolated we do not know who they are or where they are," he said. "On the other hand we do not want to dictate to people what they need, it is difficult but that is why we have these forums."

Asked what he thought of the 'older people's day' initiative, he said: "The idea is fine but I do not think it necessarily should be stuck to one day. I think this is something that should be going on all the time. Tunbridge Wells Borough Council has nine days planned.

"I'm going to be there at the launch of the new older people's forum... They must be

involved in helping KCC and health services in policy decisions because if we do not know what the problems are we cannot get it right."

At 75, Cllr Angell certainly takes his own advice to stay active. He is also KCC's deputy cabinet member for adult social services, sits on the Kent Association for the Disabled management committee, the Ashford Local Board, which he chairs, and the gypsy and traveller advisory board.

KCC has joined with NHS West Kent and Tunbridge Wells, Tonbridge and Malling, Maidstone and Dartford borough councils to produce a handbook for older people.

Cllr Angell praised its design and content which covers subjects such as housing, keeping safe, bereavement, continence, health and dementia.

"We all start forgetting things," he said. "Such as when you open the fridge and wonder why you are doing it, or walk up stairs and say 'what have I come up here for?' It may or may not be a sign [of dementia], but if we can get rid of the stigma and give people the confidence to talk to someone we are 90 per cent of the way there.

"Bereavement is another issue, we all have to mourn the death of someone. We all experience it or know someone who has and know how difficult it can be and I think something like this can be a bit of a comfort."

Cllr Angell added: "This is something which has to be right across the county."

However, a KCC spokesman said there were no plans to create a handbook for east Kent.



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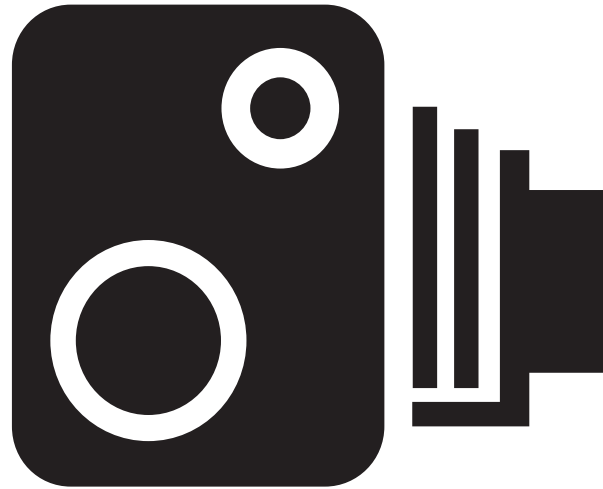
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This is in addition to the enforcement already carried out by Kent Police Officers.

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# New roadside checks in year-long hunt for killer of grandmother

By **CHRIS MURPHY**

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

POLICE frustrated at the lack of progress in finding the callous driver who mowed down and killed a grandmother are making another major appeal for help.

Shirley Leedham, 70, was hit by a four-wheel drive vehicle as she used a crossing over the A20 near her home in Harrietsham at 8.40am on Thursday, October 9, last year.

The driver stopped for a moment, before speeding off in a panic towards Lenham and they have never been caught.

A week later, police stopped drivers in the area in the hope one of them could provide officers with information that would lead them to the killer.

## Collision

Now the Serious Collision Investigation Unit is conducting another two anniversary checks along the A20.

The checks will take place on Friday, October 9, and Monday, October 12.

Officers will be stopping vehicles travelling along this route and speaking to residents in the village, in an effort to obtain any further information about the vehicle, and driver in the collision.

Shirley's husband John, 73, said after last month's inquest into her death: "I feel empty inside. You can never accept it."

"It's gone on too long really, and let's just hope one day that who is responsible comes forward or is caught."

Mid Kent Coroner Roger Sykes recorded a narrative verdict saying she died from multiple injuries.

Officers have talked to around 1,000 motorists in the area and they have had calls from Dover and Ramsgate.

Insp Guy Ditcher said: "The driver would have known they had hit the lady."



ANNIVERSARY: Police officers are stepping up their hunt for the killer of Shirley Leedham



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## Museum's hidden gem proves to be shining example

AN 18th century solar microscope has been spotted gathering dust on a Maidstone Museum storeroom shelf, *writes Chris Murphy*.

The equipment has now been brought out of storage and put on display because it is both rare and an amazing device that brought micro science to many more people.

It dates from 1772, a time when conventional microscopes were highly expensive and in short supply.

The solar microscope was developed to effectively teach a large room the wonders of microscopic objects where it was impossible to give each student their own device.

And it worked like this. The teaching room was darkened like a cinema. The microscope, which operated as a sort of projector, was built into the wall opposite a large screen.

On the outside of the wall was a mirror that reflected the sun's rays into a series of lenses and on to the screen. The object to be studied was then placed on slides between the lenses so that image was shown on the screen enormously magnified.

It was incredibly efficient and was used to examine samples such as the blood circulation in smaller animals.

In future years, as the production of more conventional microscopes became cheaper, the solar device was outmoded.

Large-scale projections using light sources other than the sun were not possible until the mid 1800s.



**A CHANCE FIND:**  
The rare microscope

# 'End playground politics of PM's question time'

By **STEVE KNIGHT**

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A VETERAN Tory MP has called for an end to the "Big Brother approach to politics" that is Prime Minister's Questions.

North Thanet representative Roger Gale says the 30-minute televised sessions have no bearing on the true work of Parliament, adding that they are "as relevant as EastEnders is to News at Ten".

Instead the 66-year-old, who was first elected in 1983, believes more emphasis should be placed on the work of select committees in the House of Commons.

He said: "Since it started being shown on television, Prime Minister's Questions has become what the majority of the public judge Parliament on. That's like judging the discipline of a school on how its pupils behave in the playground."

"The real work of Parliament bears no resemblance to it at all. I sit for hour after hour in an upstairs committee room taking legislation apart line by line, and that sort of thing is never covered by the media."

"I try to present an accurate picture of the way MPs work, but no-one wants to know. That's because of things like Prime Minister's Questions, which is like a Big Brother approach to politics."



**DIFFER:** Roger Gale and Michael Howard

Prime Minister's Questions is an opportunity for members of all parties to question the PM on any subject they wish, and was first introduced by Harold Macmillan in 1961.

Originally held twice a week for 15 minutes, Tony Blair changed the format in 1997, to one half-hour session every Wednesday.

### Tabloid

Mr Gale said: "A view that would be shared by the old and the bold – of which I guess I am one – is that it was better when we had it 15 minutes twice-weekly and MPs had the chance to raise matters of genuinely topical importance."

"It's now become a half-hour lunchtime battle where nothing much is achieved. It's quite good fun and it's watched by audiences around the world, but that's all some people

think we do, when Parliament is actually a lot more boring, but a lot more responsible."

"Prime Minister's Questions is the epitome of the tabloid approach to government."

As leader of the Conservative Party between November 2003 and December 2005, Folkestone and Hythe MP Michael Howard knows better than most what it is like to be involved in Prime Minister's Questions.

One of his most famous exchanges with then-PM Blair came shortly after being elected leader, following a question regarding alleged class bias in student admissions to university.

Mr Howard told him: "This grammar school boy isn't going to take any lessons from a public schoolboy on the importance of children from less-privileged backgrounds gaining access to university."

The 68-year-old lists the quote as one of his most memorable during his time in office, and told KoS he felt PMQs was a useful tool for the public.

He said: "The truth is that PMQs is one of the most effective ways in which an opposition party can hold the Government to account, and I don't think you're ever really going to change it."

"It shows everyone what the key issues are at any particular time, and in a very vivid way. It makes for good drama and people are interested in watching it."

"I don't think elections are won or lost on Prime Minister's Questions, but I do believe it is quite important."

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**MONUMENT:** The new Panorama unveiled this month and (right) two of the postcards recovered from Tunbridge Wells library



# Postcards from the edge of town

By **JENNA PUDELEK**

jenna.pudelek@kosmedia.co.uk

A SERIES of postcards dating from Edwardian-era Tunbridge Wells has been discovered in the town's library.

It comes as a monument called Panorama has been unveiled to mark the centenary of Tunbridge Wells being granted its 'Royal' prefix by King Edward VII in 1909.

Alastair Tod, chairman of the Civic Society, said: "The photographs are Edwardian, judging by the dress and the fact the roads are unpaved."

The photographs, which appear to have been retouched with colour, show views over the town from the top of Mount Ephraim.

Last Friday, the Panorama, on the common

opposite Boyne Park, was unveiled by the VI Marquess of Abergavenny. It overlooks one of the best views of the town and points out key landmarks to passers-by.

"It has certainly always been a view over the town," Mr Tod said. "Substantial houses were built up there in the late 18th century because of the views and there are early photographs showing all the Bath chairs waiting to take the inhabitants down to the shops or the spa."

By the time the photographs were taken in the 1900s, some of the more substantial houses were cleared to make room for more intensive development, he said.

"It became a great place for people to retire," Mr Tod said. "There were also an awful lot of women whose husbands would have been off working in the colonies such as India."

He said the 1901 town census shows a lot of women as heads of households, which was still unusual at the time and points to the fact

their husbands were away on business.

Two of the images show women and children gathered on the common on a Sunday apparently watching some kind of show.

Mr Tod said: "There is someone in a boater in the foreground and it could be a band or a revivalist meeting."

"You can see where Church Road crosses London Road and see there was no traffic in the road. The houses on London Road are very similar to how they are now."

## Middle class

There is no clue with photographs as to where they have come from other than that they had been sold as postcards.

In photographs showing young girls holding a parasol, Trinity Church can be seen to the right of the picture.

Another of the panoramic views shows the dome of the Opera House and St Peter's Church.

Mr Tod said: There are a lot of old pictures because it was a middle-class residential town and probably quite a demand for postcards for sending to friends and relatives saying what a lovely time they were having.

"It continued being a holiday resort as well as being a place where people came to live."

Mr Tod hopes the Panorama monument, which was designed by local artist and Civic Society member Bryan Senior, of a steel plaque supported on boulders of local sandstone, would become a landmark.

The idea was developed by the Civic Society after it found the borough council was not intending to mark the royal centenary, he said.

However, the council was soon on board and contributed to its installation.

Cllr Elizabeth Thomas, portfolio holder for planning and economic development, added: "The creation of a monument is important for the public life of the area."

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**CHRIS BRITCHER**  
CAMPAIGN EDITOR  
chris.britcher@kosmedia.co.uk



**SEASONAL DELIGHT:** From roast partridge to rabbit stew to pheasant (below), game ticks all the boxes for flavour and nutrition, and you'll be hard-pressed to get a meat that's more free range

## Game for a good meal

IT'S come in and out of fashion more frequently than flares – but now it's back and it's trendy again.

Game – in its wide variety of forms – is perhaps the quintessential rural dish.

Whether it is pheasant, partridge, rabbit, duck or pigeon, the animals are all wild and run free... and now they are finding their way back on to the menu.

What's more, Kent's fields and skies are full of some of the plumpest, tastiest specimens. They're so good, in fact, one local supplier has just taken a major order from Clarence House.

Explains Doug Wanstall of Bank Farm, Aldington: "It's the first time we've sold to the royals – but it's a sign of how game is once again back in fashion.

"There is a real demand again from the top London restaurants and things are really picking up."

Game season gets under way from October 1 and is ruled by many ancient regulations.

The Game Act of 1831 and the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 govern much of what can and cannot be hunted – including exactly when hunts can take place.

For Mr Wanstall, the harvesting of game creatures – normally by shooting teams – is one which stretches back in time.

He explains: "Not that long ago animals like pigeons and rabbits were very popular. They were a bountiful source of food. After all, they were all around you.

"But game is a classic Kentish dish.

"You have to be careful cooking it – if you just stick it in the oven and cook it like a roast chicken, it will come out dry and tasteless. But if you follow a recipe designed to bring out all the flavours then it is little wonder the game season is one of the most eagerly anticipated.

**As the nights draw in and the temperatures drop, CHRIS BRITCHER takes a look at a classic warming dish which is in season and finding its way on to the royal dinner table.**



"It goes in out of fashion, but our mission is to get it back on the menu and that seems to be working.

"We got a lot of orders from some of the big London restaurants and that is a sign it is back in vogue."

Crucially, it is a meat which is not only packed full of flavour, but one which ticks all the boxes.

Adds Mr Wanstall: "It couldn't get more natural. These are birds and animals running wild and free in our countryside.

"What's more, the meat is extremely nutritious. Game is very lean and thus low in fat and that's a real health benefit."

While game will continue to be under cut by the poorly reared bargain chicken lining our supermarket shelves, the cost compares favourably with most other red meats.

Adds Mr Wanstall: "If you compare it to lamb or beef, the value is comparable – but the variety it brings is something else.

"Rabbit is so versatile too – you can cook it up in a variety of ways – curry is always popular – and you can conjure up the most delicious casseroles too."

• Doug Wanstall is one of the suppliers providing top quality produce to [www.foodforkent.co.uk](http://www.foodforkent.co.uk) – a one-stop shop bringing together the finest local producers and suppliers. It has a wide range of game available at the click of a mouse – and is delivered to your home. To find out more and see all the latest special offers, visit [www.foodforkent.co.uk](http://www.foodforkent.co.uk).



**CREME DE LA CREME:** Last year's Taste of Kent Award winners celebrate their victories outside Leeds Castle

## Who do you think is the Taste of Kent?

TOP local producers, retailers, restaurants, pubs and farmers' markets have been put under starters orders as the hunt begins for the winners of this year's most hard-fought contest.

The Taste of Kent Awards is in its fifth year. Last year it attracted more than 5,000 votes for more than 450 businesses. A figure representing a 42 per cent rise on the previous year. And this year's event is expected to be even bigger.

Organised by local food and drink champions Produced in Kent, the contest allows the public to vote across 12 categories – with every voter entered into a prize draw.

Nominees have been selected in each of the categories – and voting takes place at [www.tasteofkentawards.co.uk](http://www.tasteofkentawards.co.uk).

Among the categories are favourite food and drink products, best retailers and most outstanding restaurants, pubs and farmers' markets. You can vote in one or all 12 categories.

Among those companies sponsoring the awards are Visit Kent, Kent County Council and KOS Media – publishers of this newspaper.

Julie Monkman, Produced in Kent's manager, said: "We are delighted to have the generous sponsorship backing and media support of these companies for the 2009 awards.

"Consumers are increasingly tuned into the issue of being able to source quality food and drink in season, from local, sustainable sources – in order to sustain their communities and reduce their carbon footprint. The fact that over 40 per cent more people voted last year, demonstrates that the Taste of Kent Awards are growing ever more prestigious and receiving county-wide recognition.

"They are without doubt viewed as the ultimate accolade of excellence."

The three companies receiving the most votes from the public in each category will be shortlisted and go before an expert judging panel in January 2010, ahead of the 12 winners being announced at an awards ceremony in February 2010 at Leeds Castle.

Voting at [www.tasteofkentawards.co.uk](http://www.tasteofkentawards.co.uk) is open until January 3, 2010. Alternatively, pick up a form at your nearest farmers' market and post it to Produced in Kent Ltd, Bourne Grange Stables, Tonbridge Road, Hadlow, Kent, TN11 0AU.

The Taste of Kent Awards 2009 categories are: Butcher/Meat Producer of the Year, Best Kentish Beer, Best Kentish Wine, Best Kentish Cider or Perry, Kent Juice Producer of the Year, Local Food Retailer of the Year, Seafood Retailer of the Year, Food Product of the Year, Food Producer of the Year, Restaurant of the Year, Pub of the Year and Farmers' Market of the Year.



# foodforkent.co.uk

We are committed to adding more local suppliers to our online service and any local business or producer that wishes to join our campaign should contact us at [foodforkent.co.uk](http://foodforkent.co.uk) or email us at [feedback@kosmedia.co.uk](mailto:feedback@kosmedia.co.uk)





WHEREFORE ART THOU: Hannah Prentice and Ryan Abbasi are Julie and Rikki, while David Schofield is Father Lawrence. Below is the film's director, actor Rob Rawles

# Film uses the Bard to take on gang crime

By **STEVE KNIGHT**

steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

A VETERAN actor hopes his modern-day retelling of Romeo and Juliet will help tackle the problem of gangs and knife crime.

Rob Rawles, 47, has been in showbiz for the past 31 years, performing in West End shows and playing the milkman in the BBC sitcom Keeping Up Appearances.

But last year he decided to shoot his own short film in his home town of Broadstairs, and now post-production is complete he hopes schools throughout Kent will see the benefit of showing it in their classrooms.

Renamed Rikki and Julie, Mr Rawles believes his version of one of Shakespeare's most popular works can still teach young people valuable lessons about life.

He said: "I think the play shows just how minor disagreements can escalate and result in tragedy, and there are also important lessons about peer pressure.

## Jealousy

"In my version Rikki turns the other cheek so often until he finally gives in to it, and I think a lot of young people can relate to that.

"I adore Romeo and Juliet and I want more people to love and adore it, so here is a start for the people of Kent. I believe there should never be an 'instead of Shakespeare', but there's nothing wrong with an 'as well as'.

"Children in schools will find it easier to discuss and explore the issues in my version, and hopefully gain a new appreciation for Shakespeare's work."

As well as the name change, Mr Rawles has reworked several other major aspects of a play that has also received updates in the form of the musical-cum-film West Side Story and a 1996 Hollywood movie starring



Leonardo DiCaprio and Claire Danes.

Gone are the balcony scene and the war between two rival families, and in their place a heart-warming conversation via text message and a falling-out between the pupils of a comprehensive school and their grammar school counterparts.

Thanet's Hannah Prentice and Ryan Abbasi take the title roles, with the only actor in the 30-minute film who is not from Kent being Mr Rawles' friend and Pirates of the Caribbean star, David Schofield.

Mr Rawles said: "The film has been well-received and it's actually on the bookshelves of the National Theatre and French's Theatre Bookshop.

"Now I'm trying to get the word out to all the schools in Kent, and next I plan to make my own version of Othello based on the theme of jealousy."

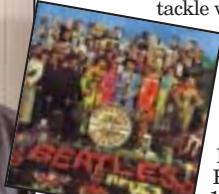
• *DVDs of Rikki and Julie, copies of the screenplay and workshops can be bought at [www.romeoinschools.co.uk](http://www.romeoinschools.co.uk).*

## Charitable artist draws on talent



ALBUM: Sir Peter Blake

THE artist who designed one of The Beatles' best-loved album covers is backing a campaign to tackle world hunger.



Dartford-born Peter Blake drew the artwork for Sgt Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band back in 1967, and he has now donat-

ed a picture to the Action Against Hunger charity as part of its Restaurants Against Hunger drive.

Visitors to the eateries taking part - of which there are several in Kent - have been invited to pick up a copy of the design, which will be reproduced on limited edition postcards after it is unveiled on October 12.

For more details about the campaign visit [www.actionagainsthunger.org.uk](http://www.actionagainsthunger.org.uk).

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# KENT ON SUNDAY

COMMENT

## The bullies must not be tolerated

KENT Police is to be praised for its efforts in tackling and prioritising the scourge of antisocial behaviour.

As anyone who has been the victim of prolonged abuse by threatening gangs knows, it is about time the issue was taken seriously.

Chief Constable Michael Fuller talked about an extreme case of a couple he knows personally who were forced to move because they were persistently targeted by antisocial behaviour and acts of criminal damage. He said he does not need convincing that antisocial behaviour can ruin quality of life.

Communities in Kent are lucky the force is taking a robust approach because while sustained bullying and harassment can force people to move home, it can also force people to take their own life.

The tragic case of Fiona Pilkington, who was driven to kill herself and her disabled daughter after years of abuse, should be a wake up call for everyone.

A minority intent on bullying the most vulnerable should not be allowed to terrorise our communities.

We all have a responsibility to report acts of antisocial behaviour and police have a responsibility to take such reports seriously, as they now seem to be doing in Kent.

Lessons must be learnt from the Fiona Pilkington case, which could have been avoided if the police and local authority had together responded to her pleas for help.

If one good thing has come from their deaths it is that antisocial behaviour and disability hate crimes are back on the agenda.

## OPINION:

## Our hands are clean

LAST week my company, R Durnnell & Sons Ltd, made the front page of this newspaper.

The story was under the arresting headline 'Bid-Rigger Keeps Its Turner Prize' – not the sort of publicity any honest firm seeks and I am grateful to have been given the opportunity to put the record straight.

First, I would take issue with the description of 'bid-rigger', an inaccuracy I ascribe not to Kent on Sunday, but to the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) which used the emotive term in the information it circulated about its investigation, thereby suggesting – perhaps accidentally – that 'bid-rigging' and 'cover pricing' were precisely the same thing.

The infringements Durnnell admitted to involved three cases of cover pricing between 2003 and 2005: 'cover pricing' had been standard industry practice since the 1920s, and was only known to be illegal after a case in 2007.

The difference between classic bid-rigging and cover pricing is crucial to understanding the frustration of building companies caught up in this investigation.

Bid-rigging implies contractors collude to ensure a client pays an artificially high price for a job; cover pricing was a practice that enabled a firm to respond to a tender which it didn't wish to undertake and where the consequence of not responding might

## 'Bid-rigging' claims by the OFT make my blood boil, says JOHN DURTNELL

have meant exclusion from tendering for future jobs.

Cover pricing did not involve any collusion among the bidders who actually wanted the work, all of whom would always put in their most competitive price.

Therefore, headline-grabbing statements put out by the OFT in 2007 (and again last week), that cover pricing had inflated the cost of public sector projects by as much as 10 per cent, could not be substantiated – as the OFT acknowledged in a little-reported (and therefore little-noticed) retraction a while ago.

To be fair to the OFT, its investigation did uncover a handful of cases where winning firms gave backhanders to rivals and where all but the winning bid were cover prices, but these instances represent a minute fraction of the whole and are not typical of cover pricing in general.

Nor are they relevant to the three cases involving Durnnell: Kent on Sunday correctly reported that Bedales school (the only project in which we were ultimately involved) were pleased with our work which, in the

words of the headmaster, had "returned good value for money".

Bearing this in mind, the decision by Kent County Council – for whom we have worked for many years on projects both large and small – not to review the Turner Gallery contract despite our OFT prosecution, is perhaps not so surprising.

The OFT investigation has been hanging over our industry for so long that in one sense it is a relief it's now over – although one does question the fairness of the process.

They investigated and obtained evidence against a sample 1,000 companies out of a UK total of 180,000, found 'cover pricing' was endemic and subsequently made the decision to pursue 103 firms – as far as one can tell – at random. Still, as they say, that's life.

So what are the likely effects of the investigation? Well, cover pricing is now history, but prices for public sector contracts will not have gone down because cover pricing never pushed them up in the first place.

On the other hand, it is probable that, despite being given time



Picture: MANU PALOMEQUE

to pay their fines (a welcome OFT concession), some construction companies will be unable to take the strain and cease trading. This will add to unemployment at a time when the number of jobless in our industry is already rising.

Fortunately, there is no question of R Durnnell & Sons throwing in the towel after more than 400 years. Although it will not be easy, we shall find the money somehow – yet what really upsets me is the affront of this action and the offence caused to our loyal staff and their families.

To see my staff characterised by the media as swindlers, scammerchants and crooks makes my blood boil and it is mainly for their sake that we may appeal.

In the meantime, we shall continue to do what we have always done: honestly deliver quality and value to our clients to the very best of our ability.

• **John Durnnell, MCI0B, is chairman of R Durnnell & Sons Ltd.**

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## The deadly distractions

Terry Hudson believes motorists are dextrous enough to use hand-held mobile phones when driving without posing a danger to other road users or themselves (letter, *Candid about cameras*, Kent on Sunday, September 27).

Countless road traffic accidents have been caused by drivers distracted while engaged in animated conversations on their cell phones.

Reports show people eating and applying make-up at the wheel have also ended up losing control of their vehicles, with fatal consequences.

Would Mr Hudson similarly defend the actions of these vacuous individuals?

*Clive Wilkins-Oppler, Canterbury*

## Please do belt up, Terry

Motorist Terry Hudson has written again on the joys of not wearing seatbelts, speeding, using mobile phones and eating while driving, all measures proven to reduce accidents and deaths on the road for both motorists and pedestrians which are now at their lowest level ever.

And all improvements resisted by the car industry and much of society for too long, along with airbags, child seats, drink-driving laws and enhanced driving tests.

Let's hope Terry clunk-clicks every trip while tailgating the road safety laws.

*Tim Garbutt, Ramsgate*

## Brown and out, Gordon

What a sad and lonely figure Prime Minister Gordon Brown makes as he tries to reinvent himself yet again.

I can certainly understand the reason for TV interviewer Andrew Marr asking if he was on pills. I would have thought he would have had enough knowing just what a hated figure he is.

Surely, if Sarah loves him like she claims,

## Worthless, artless, useless

This multi-million-pound Turner gallery scheme imposed on the residents of Thanet was unwanted – and now we read the construction firm has been fined £711,000 for cover-pricing.

This blot on the landscape is costing us heavily. All firms caught in this scam should be fined or thrown out of the contract. The millions spent should have been invested in the town of Margate, for all to

benefit. We need a new shopping centre married up to the new Dreamland scheme, offering something for everyone, not this airy-fairy world Kent County Council has dumped on the seafloor.

They are still not listening and keep spending our money on white elephants.

Cover pricing on this project and others does not paint a pretty picture.

*Trevor Shonk, Ramsgate*

she would have led him off long ago. Having failed to live up to his promise on the referendum, he must know that he is finished.

*RE Tucker, Sheerness*

## Port in financial storm

In these difficult financial times, when public services are being cut and people are suffering real hardships, readers might like to know where more of their taxes are going.

Close to £300m of taxpayers' money has been given towards building the new ferry port at Boulogne on the French coast.

Why are we still in the EU? And why are we still handing £45m every day to Brussels?

*Roger Arnold, Herne Bay*

## Piques and troughs

It was interesting to read the letter from the UKIP member about the area in square metres occupied by Brussels bureaucrats.

I shall be sure to file the information on my computer – one cannot be sure when it will come in handy.

On the other hand, I thought he was a bit harsh complaining about a restaurant and "luxury apartments" (estate agent jargon for flats) being provided. Even bureaucrats have to eat.

Also, I thought the point about an invading German army at one time occupying part of one of the palaces irrelevant. What on earth has that got to do with anything?

But for the Channel, the blighters would have been in the Palace of Westminster.

One last thing: it ill behoves a British MP to point a finger at gravy trains in Brussels. The trough is much nearer home.

*Hamish McTay, Leysdown-on-Sea*

## Voters in driving seat

It's party conference time and politicians will be after our votes. Some respect for millions of drivers is overdue. We've contributed over

### YOUR LETTERS

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£400bn to public funds since 1997, but haven't had the service we've paid for.

Laws are now so complicated that official bodies have to refund millions for improperly levied motoring fines and parking penalties.

Yet new rules will land heavy costs on many innocent drivers who successfully challenge prosecutions that should never have been brought. 'Trial by camera' is error-prone and overlooks the fact that most accidents are not caused by speed. Instead, we need more police patrols who can catch drunk and drugged drivers.

Instead of wasting millions on developing unpopular road-pricing schemes, the next government should make best use of existing road space, and stop the gratuitous removal of road space by different authorities.

Increasing congestion doesn't help anyone, nor does driver fatigue through longer journey times. The Government should resist temptation to reduce safe speed limits on main roads and repair deteriorating roads before they cause accidents. Cash-strapped authorities should look to improve safety most cost-effectively by engineering out hazards and the ongoing education of road users.

*Brian Gregory, chairman, Association of British Drivers*

## It's too late for Pamela

As the debate on assisted suicide moves on, let's not forget Pamela Weston, the latest Briton to take her life at Dignitas.

Her main aim in telling her story was not to promote assisted suicide, but to "push the Government on medical research into ME".

Until this happens, people like Miss Weston will continue to wait in vain for a scientific explanation of what causes this debilitating disease. This will be fundamental to developing better treatments and, ultimately, a cure.

*Sir Peter Spencer, chief executive, Action for ME*

Letters continue on page 30

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## BIRTHS

### ALFORD

Samantha and Paul Alford celebrate the birth of their daughter Emily Grace Alford on 20th September 2009.

### BLACKMAN

Sarah and Dale of Herne Bay are delighted to announce the birth of their beautiful daughter, Amelia Jensen, on 31st August 2009 at 6.41pm weighing 5lb 8oz.

### BYRNE

Toby and Gemma of Folkestone celebrate the birth of their son Jack Coby Byrne on the 9th September 2009.

### CARPENTER

My most beautiful and precious son Brody Carpenter was born on 27th September 2009. Love from Mummy.

### CHAPLIN

David and Catrina of Dunkirk are the very proud new parents of a beautiful son, Owen Raymond George, born on 5th September 2009 at 12.33am weighing 9lb 1oz.

### CHAPMAN

Jack Richard born on the 22nd September 2009, weighing 9lbs 4ozs. Son to Richard and Michelle Chapman of Folkestone.

### DHAMRAIT

We have been given a beautiful gift from God, a baby girl Kiran Kaur Dhamrait. Born on 22nd August 2009 at 20.12 hours. Weighed 8 pounds and 1oz. Love from Inderjit Singh and Mandee Kaur Dhamrait.

### HAIGH

Russell and Jennie Haigh celebrate the birth of their Daughter Abigail Elizabeth Rose on 16th September 2009.

### HARRINGTON

Lyndsay and Richard are delighted to announce the birth of their daughter Jessica Ann Harrington, born on Friday 4th September 2009 at 9.30am, weighing 3lbs 5oz. Our little miracle.

### KANG

Harbajan and Jatinder are so happy to announce the birth of their little miracle Harleen Kaur Kang born at 1.15 pm on the 25th August 2009 weighing 7lb 2oz. A sister for Sharondeep and Anupreet and not forgetting her brother Kulbir watching from above.

### LANGLEY DUNN

Fayth Louise born on the 16th September, weighing 6lbs 1oz. Daughter to Joanna Langley and Brandon Dunn of Kent.

### LOVETT

Charlotte-Jane Lovett and Lee Ryn of Ramsgate celebrate the birth of their son Oliver Vincent on 21st September 2009. Mummy and Daddys special little angel.

### MACGREGOR

Gemma and Cheyenne of Dover are delighted to announce the birth of their son Kaylum Cheyenne Macgregor, born on 15th September 2009 at William Harvey Hospital.

### MARTIN

Jim and Debbie are delighted to announce the birth of their most beautiful baby daughter Olivia Lily Amy Martin who was born at 5.51 am on the 22nd September 2009 at Darent Valley Hospital. Olivia weighed 7lb 5oz and is very well.

### PARKER/MULLER

Lauren and Dan would like to celebrate the birth of their gorgeous daughter Lily-Rose on 25th August 2009 weighing 9lbs 7oz

### SAUNDERS-DELL

Duncan and Liane of Southborough are delighted to announce the birth of their son Etienne Piers Saunders born on the 13th September 2009.

### SCHOFIELD

Hannah and Adam Schofield celebrate the birth of their daughter Poppy Anna Schofield on 18th September 2009.

### SHALLCROSS

Emma and Mark Shallcross celebrate the birth of their son Oliver Nicholas Claude Shallcross on 19th September 2009.

### THORPE

Matthew and Rebecca are pleased to announce the safe arrival of Oliver Liam on 26th September at QEOM. A little brother for Megan and Ella.

## DEATHS

### FIANDER

David Fiander passed away on 23rd September 2009, aged 73. Dearly loved husband of Georgeette, father of Teresa and Andrew and grandfather of all his grandchildren. Special thank you to Amanda and Tony and grandchildren. Funeral service at Medway Crematorium on Thursday 8th October at 10:20. Flowers or donations may be made to The Heart of Kent Hospice. Love from us all.

### FLETCHER

Stuart William Fletcher, formerly of Strood, died on the 25th September 2009.

### HARVEY

David George of Eastry, passed away peacefully on 23rd September 2009, aged 89. Reunited with his wife Annie. To live in the hearts of those left behind is to live forever.

### HIBBERT

Polly (Pauline) of Minster passed away on 25th September. Enquiries to Hogben and Sons, Sheerness 01795 580321. To live in the hearts of those left behind is to live forever.

### IQBAL

Shahid and Charlotte of Canterbury regrettably announce the death of their beautiful baby daughter, Raeesa May Iqbal. Taken from us on 5th September 2009 aged 3 months. The funeral for Raeesa took place on Tuesday 29th September 2009 at Canterbury cemetery.

### JARVIS

Kenneth Weston Jarvis passed away peacefully on Saturday 26th September 2009. Funeral at Eltham Crematorium 21st October at 12.15 pm. Family flowers only or donations please to Kent Air Ambulance c/o Horlocks Station Road Longfield Kent.

### McCARTHY

Michael John McCarthy died peacefully on 22nd September 2009, aged 70. Dearly loved husband of Frances, father of John, Michael and James and grandfather of Samuel and Lenny. Family flowers only but donations may be made to the National Asthma Campaign.

### SAMUELS

It is with regret that Mrs Betty Edith Samuels must announce the death of her husband Ernest Frederick Samuels known to all as Sam, on the 28th September 2009. A former Supervisor of Broadcasting at the House of Commons he will be sadly missed by his family and friends. Funeral enquiries to Co-operative Funeral Services Gravesend. Family flowers only. Donations to The Eleanor Lions Hospice.

### SPREE

We regret to announce the passing of Ivy Spree on the 25th September 2009 at Darent Valley Hospital. Ivy will be sadly missed by her husband Frank and all her family and friends. Cremation at Garden of England Crematorium Bobbing at 3.00 pm on Wednesday 7th October.

### THOMPSON

Tony Thompson of Folkestone passed away on the 23rd September 2009. Funeral Service at Hawkinge Crematorium on Tuesday 6th October 2009 at 11am.

### WESTWOOD

Don Westwood of East Langdon passed away on 22nd September 2009. Enquiries to Sullivan's of Dover 01304 201322.

### WILLEY

Guy Willey, 23rd August 1934 - 24th September. A loving Husband, Father and Grandfather. Rest in Peace. Funeral at Our Lady Immaculate Church Tankerton on Tuesday 6th October 2009 at 1.45 p.m.

### WRIGLEY

Eileen (Irene) Wrigley formerly of Bromley passed away peacefully on 24th September in Sittingbourne aged 86 years. To live in the hearts of those left behind is to live forever.

is still facing a shortfall of £3.5 million and lays the blame squarely on the national economic situation.

But his figures don't add up. He states that "around two-thirds of the council's £40m budget" comes from central government grants.

Well, according to the annual council report 2009-10, only eight per cent of the council's income is from this source, the vast majority being from council tax revenues and non-domestic rate revenues.

Even capital expenditure is only funded 27 per cent by Government grant, so where does he pluck this two-thirds figure from?

So what about our elected representatives? We contacted five city councillors (the three party leaders and our own two councillors) asking them about the council's financial shortfall and what their positions would be on job losses – and only three of them were kind enough to reply.

Cllr John Gilby, council leader and Conservative group leader, stated it was "extremely improbable that anyone will yet have a position on this situation which is being forced on us by circumstance", so who is telling the truth, Mr Carmichael or Cllr Gilbey?

Cllr Alex Perkins, the Liberal Democrat group leader, professed ignorance, stating that "under this secretive Tory council you know about as much as I do. I have not been consulted on the budget", but also that he would "fight to keep all key services – particularly those that protect the less well off in our district".

Let's hope he means it.

Julia Seath, Labour leader, and Paul Carnell, one of our local councillors, have yet to reply. However, our other local councillor, Conservative Jackie Perkins, was most illuminating, saying the entire situation was "caused solely by this inept Government".

As no great lovers of the Government ourselves, we can't help but feel this is a case of passing the buck.

Now we come to the heart of the matter. In the latest issue of District Life magazine, there seems to be bizarre "celebratory" article that the council is receiving back 16 per cent of the £6m they gambled in Icelandic banks.

By my rough calculation, that works out at a loss of £5,040,000.

So exactly why do we have financial hole, I wonder? A £3.5m cut of the budget and a £5m loss to dodgy banks. Would it be churlish of me to suggest these two are related?

While we understand that financial restraints are deemed a necessity by the powers-that-be during times of economic hardship, is it not the case that this council and councillors have been negligent in gambling away our money, that it needs to start taking responsibility for their own actions instead of passing the blame to higher authorities and trying to make others – namely council workers and those who use council services – pay for a crisis of their own making?

*Dan Allen and Bunny La Roche, Whitstable*

## Dire consequences

I note with interest that an energy group has threatened the Government with legal action for abuse of power if ministers refuse to consult on the question of consequential improvements (CI) in the planned revisions to the building regulations.

It is going to be extremely difficult to have a full and frank discussion on CI, when there is no detail available to what the Government's proposals might have been, had the idea not been withdrawn.

If the proposals had been in line with the draft revision of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD), they would have only required CIs in cases where major renovation is taking place.

Major renovation is defined as an investment of at least 25 per cent of the building's value.

This is a very large threshold and would mean that CIs would only be required for buildings undergoing a major renovation.

At such a time with the level of work being undertaken, no-one is likely to dis-

agree with such a requirement.

The concern for the Glass and Glazing Federation would be if CI were required when a consumer undertakes any form of home improvement, irrespective of the size and value of the contract.

Such a measure would be counter-productive and likely to result in the modest home improvement not being undertaken.

Such an example could be where a consumer is contemplating replacing inefficient single glazed windows with new energy efficient ones.

They may decide not to replace them if faced with additional costs linked to CI. This would therefore be counter-productive in terms of energy efficiency.

Our suggestion would be to wait for the UK Government to transpose the recast

EPBD into UK law and let this process take its course. We will inevitably end up with the EU version of CI anyway.

*Nigel Rees, chief executive, Glass and Glazing Federation*

## Taking the long view

I would urge everyone to ask themselves what they would lose if they lost their sight. In business, and more lately my TV career with Dragons' Den, I've relied on my sight so much.

When you lose your sight it can impact your life in many different ways and I honestly don't know if I could have achieved the same success.

Personally, I would lose being able to watch my children playing and swimming and driving my Maserati sports car.

It's reassuring to know there are organisations like RNIB out there to help people find their lives again.

Currently only eight out of the 100 people who start to lose their sight every day are offered any sort of counselling or emotional support.

It's up to organisations like RNIB to plug the gap, but they can only help one in three people at the moment. Help them to help everyone. Visit [www.rnib.org.uk/lost](http://www.rnib.org.uk/lost).

*Duncan Bannatyne OBE, Royal National Institute of Blind People*

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Letters continued from page 29

## Labour backs schools

At this week's Labour Party conference in Brighton, I told delegates about Medway's Tories plans to close Ridge Meadow School in Chatham.

During the conference, I wore one of the Ridge Meadow School T-shirts to show support, and also shared the experiences of the other schools threatened with closure – St Peter's and St John's.

I was pleased to be able to press Ridge Meadow's case as a part of the education debate.

I pointed out that a school with huge support from the community, improving standards, a successful nursery unit and a governing body with Financial Management in Schools accreditation, should not be closed.

The Labour Government introduced the

Every Child Matters agenda, but it seems in Medway that children at Ridge Meadow don't matter to the Tory council.

Local people feel all the council is interested in is the land.

I encouraged everyone at the conference to show their support by signing up to the Facebook campaign.

We need to stop this closure by Medway's Tories, and put an end to parents' concerns for their children's futures.

*Cllr Bill Esterson, Labour spokesman, children's services, Medway Council*

## Costly incompetence

We read with interest Canterbury City Council chief executive Colin Carmichael again stating job losses will have to be made with the council.

However, he seems to have revised his figure from his last interview from 250 to "50 to 100", although he has maintained the council

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## Trainees have energy to burn

BRITISH Energy apprentices have begun a four-year training programme that will result in them working at Dungeness B power station on Romney Marsh.

The youngsters were selected from hundreds of applicants from across the country and are carrying out their engineering studies at the firm's training centre in Portsmouth. The final two years of the scheme will take place on site.

Apprentice co-ordinator David Roseaman said: "Mixing theory tests with practical assessments continues to deliver a very high standard of apprentice, and it's encouraging to see more women applying successfully for the scheme."

## One-to-one for thousands

ALMOST 10,000 children across Kent and Medway will receive one-to-one tuition to help raise standards in English and maths, **writes Steve Knight.**

Selected pupils aged between seven and 16 will receive 10 hours of extra lessons throughout this school year as part of a new £468 million Government scheme.

The initiative was announced last week by South East minister Jonathan Shaw, who is also the MP for Chatham and Aylesford.

He said: "We are doing a great deal to give young people every opportunity to make the most of their potential, regardless of their background. This is about equality of opportunity, which is more important than ever during economic recovery. This tuition will help them back on track in the basics."

"There is clear evidence that children who have temporarily lost focus at school – perhaps due to a recent move or problems at home – quickly regain confidence and motivation when this kind of support is available."

The Government funding will be split between 19 local authorities in the South East, with Kent County Council

able to pay for 8,294 pupils to receive one-to-one tuition and Medway Council 1,681.

Those giving the tuition will include newly-qualified, existing, retired and part-time teachers, who will be paid an hourly rate of between £25 and £29 outside school hours. Schools can also choose to employ full-time tutors so tuition can take place during normal classroom time.

Meanwhile, Mr Shaw is also promoting the Backing Young Britain campaign that has so far seen more than 150 employers – including Morrisons, Centrica, Virgin, Microsoft and 72 Football League clubs – agree to offer work experience and apprenticeships.

He said: "In previous recessions there have been some people, often the young, who have been left behind when the economy picks up. We cannot allow that to happen again and I am determined we will not have another lost generation in the South East. I urge businesses to support Backing Young Britain and work with the Government to help create opportunities for young people. They are our future."

A SCHOOLS sixth form has won a last-minute funding reprieve following a successful meeting between its headteacher and Education Secretary Ed Balls.

Mascalls School in Paddock Wood had been expecting to receive £195,000 to pay for an extra 50 pupils this year, but the money was taken away with little warning by the Learning and Skills Council in June.

However, the funding has now been returned after a meeting set up by local MP Greg Clark. He said: "It comes as a huge relief to a school like Mascalls, which faced having to make cuts elsewhere."

"It should never have come to this. It was a very anxious time and while I'm delighted it has been resolved, I hope successful schools will not be penalised again."

HEADTEACHERS of the future were congratulated for achieving an important qualification at a presentation ceremony last week.

Ambitious teachers attended the Kent County Council event to pick up their National Professional Qualification for Headship (NPQH), which they must all earn before being allowed to step up the ladder.

Caroline Whalley of the National College, which runs the qualification, said: "It's great to see so many aspiring heads in Kent completing their NPQH."

"Being a head is a great job and thoroughly rewarding."

"It really gives people the opportunity to change children's lives."

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## what's inside

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With the tough trading conditions set to continue for some time, it is more important than ever for Kent companies to keep a close eye on their all-important cash flow

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With the delay in new pension rules, we discover why it's more important than ever to start pen-

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With widespread job losses yet to really start in the public sector, finances for many households could be strained for months, even years, to come. Here's how to make savings...

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Late payment of invoices is a serious problem for small businesses, so there may never have been a better time to adopt invoice finance as a way of maintaining your company's bank balance

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Discover why although evidence

of economic recovery remains patchy, small investors are turning their backs on poor savings rates and moving back into shares

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With an estimated one in four households choosing not to renew or cancelling their insurance premiums, industry experts believe many business owners, struggling in the current recession, will follow suit in a bid to cut costs. We explain why this is a gamble not to be taken

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For most of us, saving a few quid and doing our bit for the environment is sensible and worthy and, with electric cars auto-

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Against the current economic backdrop, buying a new car starts to make sense because dealers are desperate to sell and that means hefty discounts – far greater than you can earn from years of saving...

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After a few stutters and bangs, the Government's £2,000-a-go Scrappage incentive got off to a flying start

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Downsizing saves money, but sensible driving can knock even more off your motoring bill

## Essential guide to where you can save

■ SCG Construction in Canterbury is offering 10 per cent off all landscaping

■ Old Sawmills furniture store in Ashford is offering 20 per cent off all showroom items

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TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY TO ALL OFFERS

# Prudence will pay you dividends

ECONOMIC confidence seems slowly but surely to be returning, with forecasters now only arguing about when the recession will officially be over.

But for firms still struggling to make ends meet the priority will

still be making sure they are in business when we finally turn the corner.

To help firms on their way we have some expert opinion on financial issues such as cash flow, invoice financing, insurance, pensions, and how to do some prudent pruning on expenditure.

We also feature some of the

many money-saving offers available at [vouchersforkent.co.uk](http://vouchersforkent.co.uk).

There are offers for leisure, food and drink; motors and servicing; and retail, trades and services.

It really couldn't be more easy to do. Just flick through the online books, print out the offers you want, and then start saving money.

Christmas is still a few months away yet, but if money is tight it may easier spread out the present buying over a few months.

So why not spend a few minutes flicking through the online booklets, and you may end up being able to tick off a few people from your present list and save yourself money at the same time.

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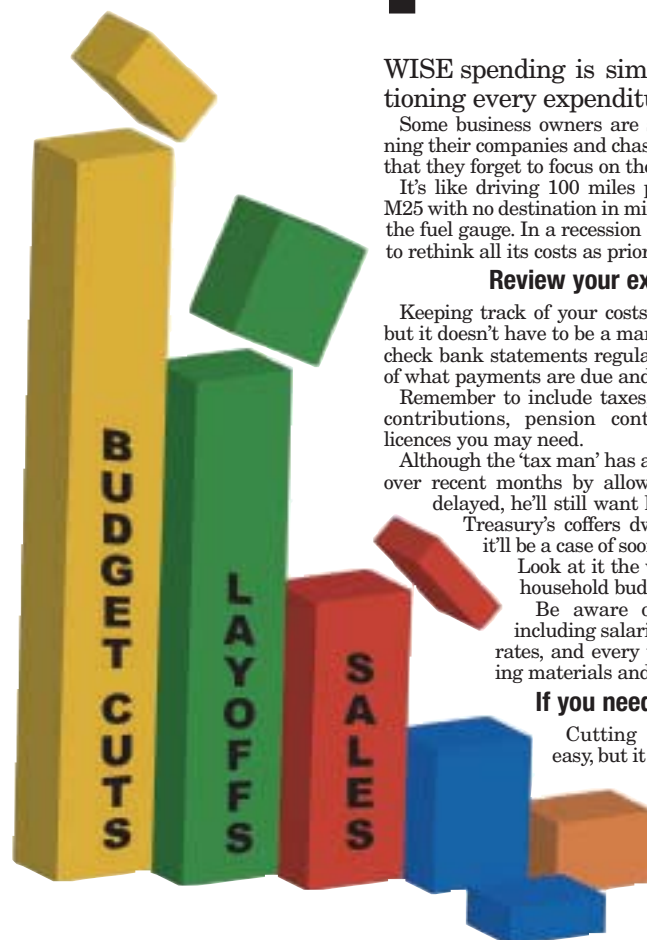
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# Go for prudent



WISE spending is simply about questioning every expenditure.

Some business owners are so engrossed in running their companies and chasing the next big sale, that they forget to focus on their finances.

It's like driving 100 miles per hour around the M25 with no destination in mind and not looking at the fuel gauge. In a recession every business needs to rethink all its costs as priorities change.

## Review your expenses

Keeping track of your costs can seem daunting, but it doesn't have to be a mammoth task – simply check bank statements regularly and make a note of what payments are due and when.

Remember to include taxes, National Insurance contributions, pension contributions and any licences you may need.

Although the 'tax man' has arguably been lenient over recent months by allowing payments to be delayed, he'll still want his money, and if the Treasury's coffers dwindle much further, it'll be a case of sooner rather than later.

Look at it the way you look at your household budget.

Be aware of every fixed cost, including salaries, rent and business rates, and every variable cost, including materials and stationery.

## If you need to cut, prioritise

Cutting costs isn't always easy, but it might be essential to help get you through the recession.

However it is vital that cuts are made in the right places, so assess which areas your



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# pruning and not slash and burn

business can realistically afford to cut back on.

Consider whether your labour force is too big, but increasingly businesses are thinking about reducing staff hours, job-sharing or offering a sabbatical before the ultimate sanction of making redundancies.

For 'one-man bands', vacating a premises and renting a serviced office for meetings and working from home may be an option, especially if you have the right IT in place.

When looking to shave costs, suppliers, including landlords, are more likely to be flexible if you let them know sooner rather than later and keep to the agreed payment terms.

## Monitor your returns

For every sale you make you need to assess whether it is worth it, as the true margin is sales, minus variable costs, minus the actual cost of collecting the cash.

The danger when work is tight is that businesses go chasing sales. If you are forced to do this, always make sure you've credit checked your new customer before agreeing terms.

You should also consider putting invoice



When faced with falling sales, reduced access to credit and squeezed profit margins, many small businesses find it hard going. However, **Andrew Metcalf**, vice chairman of the Institute of Directors Kent and director of Maxim, the Tunbridge Wells-based PR and marketing agency, believes those who keep a close eye on their costs and spend wisely are more likely to survive

finance in place, and at the very least make sure your credit control people keep an eye on customers who are slow to pay.

## Wisdom

When it comes to the costs you do control, such as PR and marketing, take time out to get a feel for whether the strategy is working.

Every hard-earned pound should be made to work very hard. If it's not delivering consider changing tack, taking advice and looking at what your competitors are doing.

Be careful not to cut costs in the wrong areas, however, as this could do more harm than good.

The received wisdom is don't cut your advertising or marketing costs altogether – as the people who have been best placed for the upturn are those who persisted with their marketing. I would say that wouldn't I? But it's true.

• To contact IoD Kent call 01732 849570, Andrew Metcalf can be contacted on 01892 513033.



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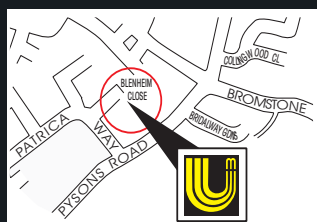
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■ Wells Clinic in Ashford is offering £25 off removal of skin tags, moles, verrucas, warts, red veins, cysts and skin peels

■ KOS is offering five Global knives set, scissors and block. Only £199.99, saving £150 off the RRP

■ Village Hotel hotel and leisure club in Maidstone is offering 20 per cent off your bill at Starbucks café with a voucher, please note this offer is only valid at Village Hotel Maidstone – get your voucher from [www.vouchersforkent.co.uk](http://www.vouchersforkent.co.uk)

■ KOS is offering a leather organiser handbag by Jane Shilton only £49.99 inc p&p, saving £40 off RRP

■ Northgate Alfa motor dealer in Canterbury is offering fixed-price servicing for cars three years plus. Bronze Care Petrol or Diesel £109

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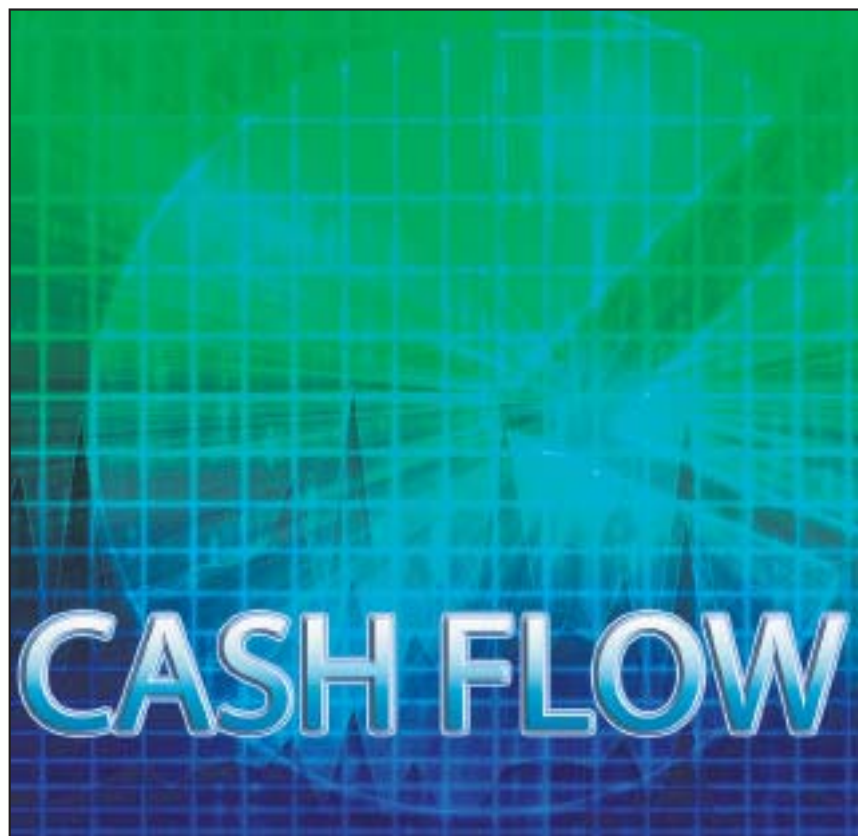
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TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY TO ALL OFFERS

# Don't let cash flow



WITH tough trading conditions set to continue for some time, it is more important than ever for Kent companies to keep a close eye on their cash flow, according to Business Link.

Ian Netherton, Business Link business adviser, warns that poor cash flow is the biggest single killer of otherwise viable businesses.

"Even companies that have never had any problem with cash flow or credit control need to have systems in place," said Mr Netherton. "Otherwise the loss of a major customer or events over which they have no control – such as disruptions to the postal service or a major increase in cases of swine flu – can have serious knock-on effects."

Business Link recommends that companies should have at least some of the following credit control procedures in place:

- Carry out credit checks on new customers before supplying them with goods and services
- Be clear right from the start about your terms of business
- Make sure the goods and services delivered are as specified – so there's no excuse to query the invoice
- Send your invoice promptly and check it has arrived
- Keep an aged debtors ledger so you can see at a glance who owes how much and from when
- Two or three days before an invoice is due to be paid, phone to make sure



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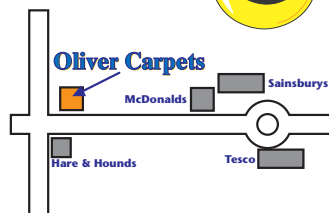
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# drain your business dry

that payment is set to be made

- As soon as payment is due, send a statement
- After a fortnight, telephone or send a letter – if necessary follow this with a visit
- Consider charging interest on the late sum – as allowed under the Late Payment of Commercial Debts (Interest) Act 1998
- Make use of technology – send invoices by email (they won't get lost or held up in the post) and ask for payment by BACS CHAPS to prevent the risks associated with bounced, missing or lost cheques
- Carry out monthly cash flow forecasts, more often during leaner periods.

Mr Netherton continued: "At this time of year, businesses need to pay particular attention to how their bank balance will be looking in coming months.

"Although good for people in sectors such as retail and leisure, Christmas can be bad news for many companies as poor weather, staff sickness and the extended holiday period can have a major impact on income.

"When this is combined with the bills that many companies face in January – such as corporation tax self-assessment payments – then it is no surprise that the first quarter of the calendar year is the peak period for company insolvencies."

If cash flow forecasts show that money is likely to be tight in coming months, Mr Netherton advises keeping your bank abreast of the situation and also considering options such as

factoring and invoice discounting.

He added: "Don't hide from financial problems – confront them and once you have a system in place it is relatively easy to keep on top of your debts.

"The benefits will include being able to reduce your borrowing, less stress and a more dependable supply of cash.

"And you will be at the front of the queue when your customer is paying his bills – because it is the businesses that chase for payment that get paid first."

"Business Link can offer support and advice on how to improve cash flow as part of a free, confidential Business Review.

"For businesses with four or more staff, this review is undertaken with the owner or manager by a Business Link adviser at a local venue or at the company's premises.

Subsequently, the adviser will prepare a plan summarising the practical actions agreed during the meeting.

Also included will be useful information and referrals to suitable organisations and services that will further help to improve the overall performance of the business.

For owner managed businesses with no more than two full-time staff, the Business Review is provided as part of a four hour workshop called 'Boost your sales and profits'.

The free workshops are available across Kent until December.

For more information about managing cash flow or to book a free Business Review, call 0845 600 9 006.



**WARNING:** Ian Netherton, Business Link business adviser

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# Sacrifice now for a better pension later

NEW pension rules that were due to come into force in 2012 requiring all employers to make pension contributions for their staff have been delayed by up to a further four years, depending on the size of the company.

**Steve Carpenter**, tax manager at Maidstone-based DSH Chartered Accountants and Business Advisors, explains below that starting pension contributions now is more important than ever.

The Personal Accounts savings scheme is designed to encourage those on low and middle incomes to save for their retirement. More than 10 million workers were set to be automatically enrolled in the pension from April, 2012, over an 18-month period.

## Contribution

The eventual target contribution is three per cent of the employee's salary. To encourage employees to contribute as well, their pension fund will receive a tax relief payment from the Government equivalent to 25 per cent of their contributions, which are targeted at four per cent of pay.

The Government has now admitted workers will have to wait to receive the full benefits of the scheme, with some facing a wait until October, 2016, before they can join.

As the new rules have been delayed, starting contributions now, in advance of the new rules, should lead to better pensions on retirement.

An opportunity to do this already exists by using salary sacrifice in agreement with their employer. These allow employees to work for a lower rate of pay in exchange for a pension benefit from their employer. This can leave you both better off.

Take a typical employee earning £30,000 per annum, for example, who makes personal pension contributions of £100 per month. The pension company can claim a tax credit of £300, making the total contribution to the pension £1,500 for the year. Their pay after tax will be £22,624, leaving £21,424 to spend after paying pension contributions. The cost to the employer is £33,108.

If the employer pays £1,500 to the pension plan instead, and the employee's pay is reduced to, say, £28,500, the employee will have an extra £165 to spend after deducting tax and national insurance, but with no pension contributions to make. In addition, the total costs to the employer fall by over £190.

So, instead of waiting for the Government to make provisions for your future, consider a salary sacrifice arrangement which can benefit both employers and employees.

• **DSH Chartered Accountants and Business Advisors** can be contacted on 01622 690666 or visit [www.dsh.co.uk](http://www.dsh.co.uk).



**FUTURE: Steve Carpenter urges people to pay into a pension now**

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# Crunch your spending

BY JEREMY GATES

TWO years into a credit crunch, it's easy to get carried away by the euphoria created by the booming stock market and widespread talk that recession is over.

At household level, the situation is more serious, with accountants KPMG predicting personal insolvencies will hit a record 150,000 plus in 2009.

Debt Relief Orders, enabling consumers with debts under £15,000 to escape bankruptcy, are 28 per cent up on 2008 levels.

With widespread job losses yet to really start in the public sector, finances for many households will be strained for months, even years, to come.

Here are some tips for slashing your costs:

## Cut energy bills

Households paying online and by direct debit now pay £284 per year less than those which get bills through the post and pay by other means – that's £978 against £1,262.

And the gap could top £300 soon, reckons Mark Todd at energyhelpline.com.

"It is no accident that the gap is widening so fast," he says. "Many people are coming off capped rates at the same time, so the energy suppliers – six majors and smaller players – are swooping like vultures to grab as many as they can."

"Unless you are vigilant and shop around, you won't get a good deal. It's as simple – and brutal – as that."

Todd says consumers may need only an email address to get the best deals. For EDF's



**SAVING: More people are discovering the benefits of hunting for money-off coupons**

Online 5 account, they can sign up on the internet and then ask for paper bills.

Around 40 per cent of consumers pay bills by direct debit, saving an average £98 per year.

## Save more with coupons

With profits at Morrisons surging 40 per cent on a promise of good value, supermarkets chasing market share are expanding own brand lines, including Waitrose Essentials, Tesco's Discounter range and Sainsbury's 'switch and save' campaign.

But canny shoppers can go one better by using vouchers to cut prices of many goods and services.

There's been a massive switch to vouchers and coupons in the past year.

Robin Goad, UK director at competitive intelligence service Hitwise, says: "People look online to research a product, looking at where

to find the best price, and finally doing a search to see if there is a voucher for it."

## Make savings count

Kevin Mountford of moneysupermarket.com claims savers have not suffered adversely in the banking crisis.

"Although interest rates are down from 5.25 per cent to 0.5 per cent, because savings rates have decreased by a lesser degree (and indeed are starting to rise again) savers get a better margin above base rate than this time last year," he says.

## Try to pay off debt

Although personal debt levels fell in August for the first time in 16 years, Danny Cox of Hargreaves Lansdown says this should be only a start.

"Reduce spending and use money saved to reduce personal debt first (credit cards, overdrafts, store cards, loans) and then your mortgage," he advises. "Hold a cash cushion to help meet unexpected bills or to cover expenditure if income reduces or falls."

## Hunt for the cheapest loans

"If you need to borrow to buy a new car, or a better secondhand one, a personal loan can be the cheapest option," says Nationwide's Chris Rhodes. "Packages offered by dealers can look attractive, but a special offer of zero per cent finance for the first year can move into a higher rate for the rest of the term and prove more expensive in the long run."

## Rent, don't buy

In August, rentals of DIY equipment surged 35 per cent, gardening equipment 28 per cent, and motorhomes 54 per cent, according to online rental marketplace erento.co.uk.

## Essential guide to where you can save

■ Canterbury Hyundai motor dealer in Canterbury is offering £29.95 on MOTs while you wait

■ Village Hotel, hotel and leisure club in Maidstone is offering this deal: buy two large glasses of wine and get the rest of the bottle free at the Victory pub

■ Maidstone Kia motor dealer in Maidstone is offering a Lifeshine full car care for only £299

■ Oliver Carpets in Ramsgate, Herne Bay and Cliftonville is offering five per cent off when you spend over £250

■ Secure Style, windows, doors and conservatories in Herne Bay is offering 30 per cent off windows and doors

■ Lay Well flooring store in Sittingbourne is offering a free upgrade on underlay

■ Cliftonville tile centre in Cliftonville is offering free adhesive and grout on all tile orders over 15 metres

■ Decorators Choice, supplier of paints and wallpapers in Canterbury, is offering 15 per cent off all paints

■ Wells Clinic in Ashford is offering £50 off skin lifting and tightening. Lines and wrinkle reduction treatment

■ Bourne Road motor dealer in Crayford is offering FREE car mats with all new Mazda purchases new and used

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■ KOS is offering Pulsar Kinetic watches for only £49.99 (inc p&p) no battery required, saving over 50 per cent on RRP

■ The White House hair and beauty salon in Deal is offering a free 10-minute Kerastase treatment

■ Maidstone Kia motor dealer in Maidstone is offering MOTs for £45

■ KOS is offering Sun Blaster Glare Shields from £14.99

■ FG Barnes motors in Maidstone is offering MOTs for only £39.99

■ Bannatyne Health Club in Ashford is offering a brand new gym bag worth over £25 to all new members

■ KOS is offering big button digital cordless phones for just £24.99, save £20

■ SCG groundworks in Canterbury is offering 10 per cent off all building works

■ KOS is offering goose down surround pillows from only £24.99 inc p&p, save up to £125 on RRP

■ Secure Style windows, doors and conservatories in Herne Bay is offering 30 per cent off fascias

■ KOS is offering Snugfit mattress topper from slumberdown from only £69.99, save up to £40. Various sizes available

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TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY TO ALL OFFERS

# Invoice finance is capital idea



ORGANISING CASH FLOW: Paul Saunders

A SALE isn't a sale until the money is the bank, and with late payment of invoices a serious problem for small businesses, there may never have been a better time to adopt invoice finance as a way of maintaining your company's bank balance.

In times of economic difficulty small and medium-sized enterprises (SME) traditionally face cash-flow issues that are compounded by a tendency among their customer businesses to delay payments, usually because they face similar difficulties.

The Federation of Small Businesses recently confirmed companies have seen their usual 30-day wait for an invoice to be paid stretched out to 60 or even 120 days by their customers, many of which are large corporations and retailers.

These delays can prove catastrophic for otherwise viable businesses.

Invoice finance takes away this stress. Clydesdale Bank's invoice finance service enables businesses to obtain immediately up to 85 per cent of the value of invoices they issue, with the remainder payable when payment is received.

This means they always have rapid access to funds which reflect their commercial performance.

Paul Saunders, managing partner at Maidstone, explained: "Invoice finance is all about improving cash flow, which is a major issue for businesses as it leads to more companies failing than anything else.

You can have the best sales pipeline in the world but if you don't have cash coming in you won't be able to meet salary

payments or pay your key suppliers.

"Invoice finance works by bridging the gap between an invoice going out the door and payment coming in, which helps the company run smoothly. We fund the lion's share of the invoice value when it is raised, with our clients getting the rest when their customer pays."

Recognising the scale of the demand, Clydesdale Bank recently committed an extra £100 million to its invoice finance fund. The increased support for the local SME community is available through the bank's Financial Solutions Centres (FSC) in Tunbridge Wells and Maidstone.

"Invoice finance is fast replacing traditional overdrafts as the preferred way to borrow, and the certainty over cash flow it gives is even more important in the current climate. We responded to increased demand by earmarking an extra £100m for lending in this area and I'm pleased to say it's already making a real difference," said Mr Saunders.

## Shield

"As well as helping existing business customers of the bank, we are keen to see new, well-managed companies benefit from this new fund, demonstrating our ongoing commitment to supporting the SME community, which is the backbone of the economy."

Alongside invoice finance, Clydesdale Bank has also seen many clients opting to take up credit insurance to protect them from customers going bust. Every time a company fails there is a financial impact to all of their suppliers as well, and credit insurance helps to shield a business from this.

Local businesses interested in finding out more about invoice finance or other funding options, can call Clydesdale's business branches in Maidstone (01622 625400) or Tunbridge Wells (01892 617620).



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retail sales only. Subject to availability at participating dealers only on new vehicles registered between 1st October 2009 and 31st December 2009. \*0% finance available on Mazda Conditional Sale on all Mazda2, all-new Mazda3, Mazda6 and New Mazda MX-5 models. Offer not available in conjunction with Government Scrappage Scheme. Finance subject to status. Terms and conditions apply. Applicants must be 18 or over. Guarantees/Indemnities may be required. Mazda Financial Services RH1 1SR. 11 Standard on Sport and Sport Nav models. Models shown: Mazda2 1.5 3dr Sport. OTR price £11,995. All-new Mazda3 2.0 5dr Sport. OTR price £18,025. Mazda5 2.0 Sport with Sports Luxury Pack. OTR price £22,095. All models shown, excluding Mazda RX-8 R3 and all-new Mazda3 2.0 Sport, feature optional metallic/mica paint (£385). On the road prices include 15% VAT, number plates, delivery, 12 months' road fund licence, 1st registration fee, 3 year or 60,000 mile warranty and 3 years' European Roadside Assistance. Details correct at time of going to print. \* £2,000 Customer saving excluded on the Mazda5 TS and TS Diesel model, where a £1,500 customer saving is offered.



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# DAVE LEE'S CELEBRITY GOLF CLASSIC



Dear All

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We are a group of volunteers who raise funds to send sick, disabled, disadvantaged and terminally sick children and their immediate families who live in Kent on a holiday, so far we have sent nearly 40,000 people on a holiday or trip and raised almost two million pounds.

It is a fantastic day out for the whole family with free admission for children, free car parking and just £5 admission for adults, come and watch a bunch of celebrities giving up their time free of charge to make Kent a happier place for the less fortunate to be able to have a well deserved family break!

Bring along your autograph books and cameras, there is on course catering wagons, bars clowns with lots of fun for all.

I would like to thank Paul Gibbons for allowing us to return to Chart Hills and all his staff for their fantastic enthusiasm thus enabling us to make this years event possible, thanks also to everyone who has worked so hard behind the scenes and Kosmedia for all they have done for the charity.

Many Thanks  
Dave  
Dave Lee MBE

PS. We are going to have a fantastic day so come and join us, Oh yes we are!

## CELEBRITY PLAYERS

Celebrity Golfers Subject to change

Kriss Akabusi	Derek Hales	Duncan Norvelle
Ossie Ardiles	Ian Harvey	John Pratt
Richard Bushnell	Dean Headley	Neil Ruddock
Ray Clemence	Paul Hendy	Martin Saggars
Dec Cluskey	Andy	Chris Schofield
Warwick Davis	Hessenthaler	John Shepherd
Phil DeFreitas	Phil Holden	John Taylor
Peter Duncan	Dave Jessup	Rocky Taylor
John Embury	Stuart Law	Sion Tudor-Owen
Mark Falco	Barry McGuigan	Bradley Walsh
Ed Giddins	Mark Moriarty	John Warnett
Tony Hadley	P H Moriarty	

## OTHER CELEBRITY GUESTS

John Altman  
Geoff Clark  
Brian Conley  
Richard Digance  
Paul Scally  
Mark Stimson  
Barbara Sturgeon  
Shaun Williamson  
The Searchers

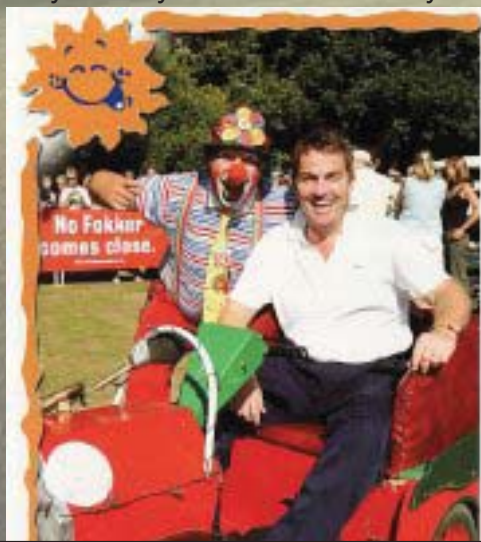




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# DAVE LEE'S CELEBRITY GOLF CLASSIC

## WELCOME TO CHART HILLS GOLF CLUB

**Chart Hills** is the British architectural debut of six times Major-winner Sir Nick Faldo. Set on 200 acres of gently undulating hills, the club was officially opened in August 1993 and is recognised within the professional golfing community as one of the foremost venues in the country.

### An Award-Winning Parkland Golf Course

Chart Hills is a European Tour qualifying school venue and has played host to The Ladies English Open. The course was recently recognised as one of the top 20 courses in Europe by the Peugeot Golf Guide 2008-2009, with a rating of 18 out of 20 (the second highest in the guide). Chart Hills featured in the Top 100 Golf Courses in Great Britain and Ireland in 2009 and was voted 'Best Parkland Course in the UK and Ireland' by World of Golf magazine.

### Unique Challenges

With over 130 bunkers, 5 different teeing positions, abundant water hazards and greens so fast that in the summer months can be likened to putting on glass, Faldo has truly left his mark on this parkland masterpiece. Two of the signature features of the design include the UK's largest bunker – the 200-yard Anaconda on the 5th hole – and the unique island green at the short 17th.

### Outstanding Facilities on All Fronts

Chart Hills' beautifully presented clubhouse, which was fully renovated in 2007, boasts amazing food, ample parking and stunning views. There is a variety of conference and banqueting facilities available and dedicated staff is on hand to help plan events. With a number of room choices and layouts available, including the Carnforth Suite, Andredsweald Restaurant, Board Room and spike bar, Chart Hills is the perfect venue for all occasions, from weddings to business meetings.



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## Essential guide to where you can save

■ Old Sawmills furniture store in Ashford is offering a mahogany computer desk – was £995 now £495

■ KOS is offering Swarovski Crystals Double Heart Pendant for £29.99

■ True Grip leisure activity centre in Canterbury is offering 15 per cent off 4x4 road driving experience

■ KOS is offering personalised Weekender bags for only £29.99

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■ KOS is offering Garden Sonic Blaster for only £29.99

■ The White House hair and beauty salon in Deal is offering 30 per cent off colouring

■ KOS is offering Zero Gravity recliner chairs from only £124.99

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TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY TO ALL OFFERS

# Investors return

By JEREMY GATES

ALTHOUGH evidence of economic recovery remains patchy, small investors are turning their backs on poor savings rates and moving back into shares.

Three new surveys all confirm that small investors have played their part in the bounce in London's FTSE-100 from 3,460 points in March to more than 5,000 now.

In total, they have over £150 billion in shares, against the peak of £283bn in 1999.

Virgin Money says 45 per cent of independent financial advisors think shares now provide the best return on clients' money, against only 29 per cent a year ago.

### Confident

"Cash is the big loser as investors have started to shirk the relative safety of cash in favour of capitalising on the long but consistent curve of recovery in the stock market," says spokesman Grant Bather.

This view is confirmed by Rebecca O'Keefe, head of investment at Interactive Investor, where online trades cost £10 each.

"Trading figures have returned to levels we have not seen since the peak of the dot.com bubble in 2001," she says.

"As the FTSE hovers around 5,000, investors clearly remain confident the market will continue to perform well. August saw record UK trading on our platform, with trading again dominated by big banks and companies involved in mineral production."

More than 140,000 small investors trade with Interactive Investor, and some have seen a 70 per cent jump in the value of their portfolios in 2009, often because they backed stricken banks.

Barclays is up seven-fold, while Royal Bank of Scotland has seen a five-fold rise.

A third survey, from Prudential, says share buying by small investors is rarely based on expert knowledge.

The Pru thinks more than 17 million small investors have held shares at some time over the past decade, and two-thirds of them (65 per cent) bought without any professional advice.

Mostly, they rely on internet searches or media reports when selecting shares to buy. Only 16 per cent are guided by a financial advisor, four per cent consult a stockbroker, while 10 per cent are guided by bank or building society staff.

"Not everybody is fortunate enough to have spare funds to save or invest, but many people do," says Trevor Cheal, Prudential retirement savings business director.

"It is staggering how few are seeking financial advice or looking to capitalise on the growth potential the stock market has historically offered."

Shares, therefore, may be driven by the 'herd instinct'. What happens next is anybody's guess.

"Those who have underestimated this rate of recovery have been hurt badly," says Jeremy Smith, head of UK equities for fund manager Neptune Investment Management.

"We believe that, with continued positive momentum, the FTSE-100 can reach 5,500 in short order."

But Derek Stuart, manager of the highly-rated Artemis UK Special Situations Fund, warns that markets have moved far beyond fundamentals.

With rising oil prices, rising unemployment and the biggest decline in US consumer credit since 1944, he wonders how long the rally can last.

Talk of resurgent shares poses a big dilemma for Britain's over-50s.

From October 6, they can invest a maximum £10,200 each in equity ISAs (Individual Savings Accounts) under new limits allowed by Chancellor Alistair Darling. The new limit applies to everybody else from April, 2010.

The ISA wrapper means all capital gains on shares is tax free. Dividend income is taxed at 10 per cent. For higher-rate taxpayers, the attractions are obvious.

But if markets lose their nerve, or Britain's economy enters the widely-feared 'double-dip recession', buying shares now could soon incur hefty losses.

In these uncertain times, here are the key rules for investors to follow:

- After London shares have risen so far so fast, chances of further capital gains are inevitably reduced, in the short term at least.

With commentators predicting falls in the next 18 months, equity investment must be for a minimum five years, preferably for 10.

One of the most successful managed funds, Jupiter Financial Opportunities, has produced a total return of 815 per cent since its launch in June, 1997, a compound annual growth rate of 19.8 per cent.

Fund manager Philip Gibbs parked a big slice of his fund in cash through last year's turmoil, so his supporters are keen to see what he does next.

- Older investors, closer to retirement, need the protection of a widely-diversified portfolio to ensure their income stream is not slashed by the sort of market turmoil we saw in autumn 2008.

## CROSSKEYS COACHES



## 2009 DAY TRIPS AND HOLIDAYS

### October ADULT

Sat 10th	Calais & Cite Europe	£19.00
Tues 20th	London Eye & Thames Cruise	£36.00
Thur 29th	Boulogne & Nausicaa	£23.00
Sat 31st	Halloween at Disneyland	£60.50

### November ADULT

Mon 2nd	Afternoon Cite Europe	£13.00
Sat 7th	Disney On Ice Princess Wishes	£41.00
Tues 10th	Cherkley Court & Gardens Christmas Fair	£19.50
Wed 11th	Ypres Battlefield Tour & Menin Gate	£35.00
Mon 16th	Westfield Shopping Centre	£17.00
Thur 19th	Boulogne	£23.00
Sat 21st	Romford Market	£15.00
Wed 25th	Blewater or Lakeside	£16.50
Sat 28th	Bruges Christmas Markets	£31.00
Sat 28th	Birmingham Tattoo (2 Days 1 Night)	£97.00

### November (continued) ADULT

Mon 30th	Warner's Bodelwyddan Castle	£295.00
	Historic Hotel, Wales	
	(5 Days 4 Nights)	
Mon 30th	Maidstone & Newnham Court Shopping Village	£11.50

### December ADULT

Sat 5th	Christmas at Heaven Farm & Batemans	£19.50
Sun 6th	Frankfurt Christmas Markets	£34.00
Mon 7th	Afternoon Cite Europe	£13.00
Wed 9th	London Christmas Lights & Sights	£16.00
Sat 12th	Thursford Christmas Spectacular	£58.00
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# for share of the action

"A portfolio should include equities, bond funds, cash and property, reflecting your own attitude to risk," says Ben Yearsley at IFA Hargreaves Lansdown.

- Make sure any equity investment is global, because Britain faces a turbulent 18 months while other parts of the world are likely to recover more quickly.

Yearsley, for instance, likes the Neptune Balanced Growth Fund, with nearly half invested in the UK, five per cent in Japan, five per cent in Russia and the rest spread around countries and sectors which look interesting.

## Drip feeding

Another well-regarded fund is First State Asia Pacific Leaders, a £2.9 billion fund invested in large and mid-cap companies in Asia Pacific, excluding Japan.

- In rockier economic times, steady income may be more important than capital growth – so look to invest in funds which invest in companies which pay good dividends.

- Look to drip-feed an investment, paying in perhaps £100 per month to a managed fund. It means if the share price falls, you get more units when share prices eventually recover.

"By drip-feeding funds into the market over the longer term, investors take advantage of pound cost averaging, buying in peaks and troughs but buying disproportionately more on dips," says Dr Stephen Barber, who advises Selftrade, an execution-only stockbroker.

Above all, whatever Prudential might suggest, the global economy is really too risky these days for investors to rely on rumours and online discussion boards. They really should check the views of professionals – fund managers and financial advisors – before they commit cash. The old days of easy profits on equities may be gone forever.



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cut costs

# Cutting corners is a risky business

WITH an estimated one-in-four households choosing not to renew or cancelling their insurance premiums, industry experts believe many business owners, struggling in the current recession, will follow suit in a bid to cut costs.

However, Belmont International, one of the South East's largest independent insurance brokers, based near Sevenoaks, believes that companies can avoid putting themselves at risk by spending a little time examining what they actually need to ensure compliance with their legal obligations, commercial mortgages or leases, or what financial risk they can bear.

A recent survey of 2,000 households, undertaken by YouGov research on behalf of the Association of British Insurers (ABI), found that 22 per cent of households had cancelled their contents insurance and 17 per cent had ditched the compulsory buildings insurance in an effort to cut costs during the recession.

Belmont International has successfully helped many local businesses to reduce their premiums without the need for such drastic action resulting in lower costs and the all-important peace of mind.

## Jeopardise

David Armstrong, associate director at Belmont International, said: "Although many businesses may be struggling financially during the current recession, deciding to stop paying their premiums or renewing their buildings, business continuity insurance, to save money is a very risky game to play.

"Failure of the directors to adequately insure a business's activity or essential asset can seriously jeopardise the future of a business and in the case of liability insurance could leave business owners and directors exposed to prosecution and personal financial loss."

Commercial property insurance is important for most businesses, says Belmont International.

Not insuring a commercial property in terms

of its physical structure leaves a business financially exposed should there be a serious incident and may place them in breach of the terms of any mortgage agreement.

The cost of building insurance is determined by a combination of factors, including postcode, the size and type of the property, the insurer's view on the prevalence (or absence) of crime, flooding or subsidence in the area, as well as any attempts by the owner to improve the property's security and claims history.

Mr Armstrong continued: "The key is not to underinsure, so make sure you have a proper re-instatement valuation, plus inventory of stock and equipment.

"The tendency is to underestimate so as to minimise premiums and then regret it when the claim comes in.

"Many businesses may consider the risk of a fire to be low particularly if they have good security and fire protection thus reducing premiums, but retaining cover.

"There are a variety of things that company owners should consider when wishing to minimise costs without jeopardising their business, but only experts such as Belmont International will know what all of those risks and options are."

You can contact Belmont International on 01732 744700 or visit [www.belmontint.com](http://www.belmontint.com).

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# Think meaner, leaner and greener

CARMAKERS deserve credit for some leaner and meaner models in response to global warming, new legislation and volatile fuel prices.

It normally takes five to seven years to bring a new car to the market, so 'new generation' cars we all crave simply cannot happen overnight.

But manufacturers are understandably reluctant to sideline the internal combustion engine in favour of expensive research and development of new technologies.

Nevertheless, the Government is pressurising people into smaller and cleaner cars through new road tax bandings, ranging from zero to £400/year and set to become tougher.

Next year, gas guzzling limos or 4x4s face £950 road tax in the first year although anyone spending £50-100,000 surely won't blink at this 'paltry' sum.

For most of us though,

BY **STEVE LOADER**

saving a few quid and doing our bit for the environment is sensible and worthy and, with electric cars automatically exempt from tax, politicians and carmakers are jumping on the electric bandwagon now.

There has been lots of publicity about 'plug-in' models for overnight charging at home or swanky city centre charging points.

But this is simply sweeping car emissions under the carpet or, more correctly, whisking them up the belching chimney of the nearest conventional power station.

Sure, moves are afoot to re-energise the nuclear generation industry, but we all have qualms about that and it won't happen overnight.

So, what are the other runners? Japanese giants Toyota and Honda have stormed ahead with hybrids pairing a convention-

al engine with electric power and batteries and Peugeot will follow soon, with other brands set to join the club, but hybrids are expensive.

And so we come back to the internal combustion 'lump' where emissions are plummeting, economy is soaring and refinement is improving.

In fact, things are moving so fast that you marvel at what a few well-applied kicks up the backside can achieve.

The downsizing phenomenon is also well under way, with several new cars proving that 'small is beautiful' such as Toyota's all-new IQ baby car, seating three adults and a child within a bodyshell barely longer than a two-seat Smart city car.

And Italy's Fiat has reversed its fortunes by looking to the past to design a Fiat 500 (pictured) for the 21st Century.

Most carmakers also now have an 'eco sub-brand' such as Vauxhall's ecoFLEX line-up and Kia's EcoDynamics, but they don't come cheap, so weigh potential long term savings against upfront cost – if you don't cover the miles, conventional alternatives may be a better bet.

Don't ignore petrol models either; the higher price of diesel cars and the fuel at the pumps must be compared with new small capacity low emission/consumption petrol engines such as the turbocharged 1.4-litre unit on the Fiat Grande Punto.



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- 3 The Government giving away money.**  
Okay, so it's the same as reason one, but it's so good we couldn't let it slide. Just hurry, before they change their minds.



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\*Model shown is Picanto 1.2 at £4,495 On The Road (OTR) after deducting £2,000 Government and Kia Scrappage incentive. Government Scrappage incentive applies to cars or vans registered on or before 31 October 2005 only when traded in against new cars. Scrapped vehicles must have been registered to the purchaser for at least the 12 months preceding the purchase of the vehicle and be MOT'd and taxed. Terms and conditions apply. Prices correct at time of going to press and specification is subject to change without notice. OTR price includes VAT, number plates, delivery, 12 months Government VED and vehicle first registration fee.



# Buying – the new savings plan

BY STEVE LOADER

BRITAIN'S economy is limping towards recovery according to Government statistics released this week, but they also showed people are saving more despite weak interest rates.

And a stampede back to savings is the last thing the economy needs even if nobody needs a return to the profligacy that got us into this mess.

Against this backdrop though, buying a new car starts to make sense, because dealers are desperate to sell and that means hefty discounts – far greater than you can earn from years of saving.

Ah, you say, but a car costs thousands with or without discount. Yes, but most of us will buy one sooner or later

and you can make big savings after driving off the forecourt too by downsizing and opting for a model incurring lower road tax, fuel bills and other running costs.

If you have a car ten years old or older, you could save yourself £2,000 straight away with a grant from the Government-sponsored Scrappage scheme launched in May and renewed this week (see later story), but there have been hefty discounts available on most new cars for months now.

Even if, after raiding the bank account and waving your 'wad' at the dealer, your cash does not stretch to the discounted asking price, there are other deals that can be factored in, such as zero or low rate finance. A generous warranty up to seven years is also worth having.

And don't forget to ask for trimmings like a tank of fuel, car mats or discounts on any little add-ons you might fancy.

Do your homework though to ensure you are not buying a car on 'run-out', where production or importing ceased a while ago. Choose the engine carefully too; with fuel prices volatile, you don't want to



**MADE IN BRITAIN:** There's a British bonus from buying the Nissan Qashqai (above) and Micra; and below left, the Kia cee'd SW family hatch and estate comes with seven-year warranty



trade one gas guzzler for another.

Buy wisely though and your new vehicle could save you a fortune, even on depreciation, though cars always devalue – unless they achieve classic status.

You can also afford to congratulate yourself for offloading something less efficient in favour of a modern and more eco-friendly model.

On the other hand, you might have lost tons on that big 4x4, but work out what it will cost you to run it for the next three years – it might be a lot less than the cost of chopping it for a new car.

Road tax also favours downsizing – gas guz-

zling executive models or 4x4s face £950 a year road tax from next year – but road tax is still a relatively small part of the motoring budget for most of us.

Many superminis sit in the lowest road tax band of £35 a year and though you might be tempted by tax-exempt diesel eco models, just check the price against a standard version of the same car. The eco supermini might save you £105 in road tax over three years, but you will pay more for the car upfront.

So, check out conventional equivalents and don't dismiss petrol power; that fuel is still cheaper and makes sense for lower mileage users.

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# Government's scrapheap banger takes on more fuel

BY **STEVE LOADER**

AFTER a few stutters and bangs, the Government's £2,000-a-go Scrappage incentive got off to a flying start, requiring a refuel at the Labour Party Conference.

The initial £300 million fund set aside by the Treasury was due to run out this month, instead of the expected cut-off date next March, but Business Secretary Lord Mandelson confirmed a top-up – enough to finance a further 100,000 deals on top of 200,000 already signed.

The offer is that the donor car or van going to the crusher must have been registered before 31 August 1999 and your name must have been on the V5 'logbook' for 12 months before the date your new car order is placed.

Carmakers have mostly embraced the deal after initial disappointment that they would be expected to foot half of each '£2,000 Government Scrappage grant' and noting the Treasury would claw back some money through VAT on each car sale.

Some brands have even put extra money on the table on top of their £1,000 per unit as well as extra specification and zero per cent finance – though this is no big deal when interest rates are so low.



**SALES BOOST:** Government-sponsored Scrappage grants have boosted sales of new superminis like the Hyundai i20 and Chevrolet Aveo



On the other hand, consumers with savings will know they are receiving precious little return and be tempted to seek a psychological boost from buying a new motor that should be cheaper to fuel and tax.

And don't be despondent if not in a position to take advantage of Scrappage; with the exception of city cars and superminis, you

should get a hefty discount on most new cars in the current climate without needing a banger to scrap.

If you have been out of the car market for a while though, do your research; diesel cars now outsell petrol, but they cost more and the extra weight can be wearing and intrusive in the smaller cars most in demand now and you need to cover many miles to recover extra upfront outlay.

Meanwhile, petrol is making a comeback with lighter, small capacity turbocharged engines. You might also consider a hybrid, but these cost more and this must also be weighed against the mileage you intend to cover.

## Essential guide to where you can save

■ Bourne Road motor dealer in Crayford is offering free tank of fuel with all Mazda purchases new and used

■ Robins and Day motor dealer in Maidstone is offering MOTs for £29.99 and a service and MOT from £119.99

■ Motorline Renault motor dealer in Canterbury, Ashford and Maidstone is offering £99 service and free MOT for vehicles three years and older

■ Truegrip off-road fun in Canterbury is offering 15 minutes of karting for only £10

■ UK Stone stone merchant in Hersden near Canterbury is offering 10 per cent off Sandstone and limestone list price

■ Robins and Day motor dealer in Rochester is offering MOTs for £29.99 and a service and MOT from £119.99

■ Chambers Motorcycles in Maidstone is offering a free lock when you purchase a bike instore

■ SCG groundworks in Canterbury is offering 10 per cent off landscaping

■ FG Barnes Motors in Maidstone is offering half price MOT with full service

■ Bannatyne Health Club in Ashford is offering memberships from as little as £29 a month

■ UK Stone stone merchants in Hersden nr Canterbury is offering 10 per cent off sandstone spheres

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# Smarter driving, better saving

**DOWNSIZING** to a more fuel and tax efficient car should be just part of your master plan to cut the motoring budget.

The next stage involves smarter driving and journey planning and getting fitter by walking and cycling instead of using the car on short journeys – cold engines waste fuel and produce 60 per cent more emissions than warm ones.

Short car journeys also mean extra servicing and more engine wear.

If you must drive then follow these tips from the Institute of Advanced Motorists and RAC Foundation:

- Plan your route to save strain on car and driver. Take the most direct route – a sat nav can help – and go off peak if possible. Commuters should think about car sharing, Park and Ride bus schemes or other public transport.
- Have your vehicle serviced regularly.



**SENSIBLE SAVERS:** Downsizing saves money, but sensible driving can knock more off your motoring bill for a Skoda Roomster mini-MPV (above) or Renault Clio (right)

BY **STEVE LOADER**

Neglected engines waste at least ten per cent more fuel and catalytic converters only clean emissions when properly maintained.

- Check tyres – under-inflated tyres need replacing more often (itself an environmental problem), are dangerous and waste fuel. Check pressures weekly.

- Obey speed limits to save money and stay legal. Feather the throttle as you reach cruising speed; 56mph uses 25 per cent less fuel than 70mph and a smoother driving style saves fuel.

- Accelerate briskly without racing the engine – pulling away too fast uses up to 60 per cent more fuel. Intelligent gear changes at modest engine speeds can save up to 15 per cent in fuel.

- Reduce drag – remove roof

racks and carriers when not in use and keep windows closed to avoid drag and wasted fuel. Remove unnecessary and heavy boot luggage and wide wheels and tyres that add rolling resistance. Air conditioning costs fuel too so try to use the fan and vents unassisted.

- Buy green fuel and use less. Look for low sulphur 'city' diesel or cleaner petrol (low sulphur/aromatics). Consider converting to LPG (liquid petroleum gas) – half the price of petrol and cleaner.

- Think ahead – there is no point rushing and then having to brake suddenly.

- Be a tank miser. Why fill the tank to the brim and burn more fuel carrying more weight than necessary?

- Stuck in traffic? Turn off the engine after two minutes to save fuel and emissions.

- For more eco tips see Julie Maddocks' online video report at: [www.yourkenttv.co.uk/community](http://www.yourkenttv.co.uk/community).



## Essential guide to where you can save

■ Northgate Alfa motor dealer in Canterbury is offering fixed-price servicing for cars three years plus. Silver Care Petrol or Diesel £139

■ KOS is offering the Doro 338 GSM Big button mobile phone for £99.99

■ Village Hotel hotel and leisure club in Maidstone is offering free loaded nachos worth £5.95 when you buy a bucket of six Mexican Sol beers from the Victory pub

■ KOS is offering the Pulsar Military Style Chronograph Watch. Save £20. Offer price £49.99, RRP £69.99

■ FG Barnes motors in Maidstone is offering £250 of accessories with Network Q purchases

■ KOS is offering Peers Hardy leather handbag and free umbrella for £19.99

■ Robins and Day motor dealer in Canterbury is offering MOTs for £29.99 and service and MOT from £119.99

■ Truegrip off-road fun in Canterbury is offering 15 per cent off a 4X4 off-road driving experience

■ KOS is offering solar powered bird baths. Save £30. Offer price £119.99 RRP, £149.99

■ Village Hotel hotel and leisure club in Maidstone is offering a free day pass when you call into village leisure club and exchange your voucher – available from [www.vouchersforkent.co.uk](http://www.vouchersforkent.co.uk)

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**ROAD TAX FRIENDLY:** the Vauxhall Corsa ecoFLEX is a much greener version of its mainstream counterparts, while all new Mazda3 models have lighter weight built in for lower emissions and fuel bills



# See the tax-beating options

BY **STEVE LOADER**

**WHATEVER** you do, don't swap your current car just to save a few pounds on road tax.

On the other hand, Government efforts to tax 'gas guzzlers' off the road can further ease the burden on your motoring budget if

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Band G (151-160g/km) – £150  
Bands H and I (161-180g/km) – £175  
Bands J and K (181-225g/km) – £215  
Band L (226-255g/km) – £405  
Band M (255g/km plus) – £405

you plan to downsize or go for a more fuel-efficient model.

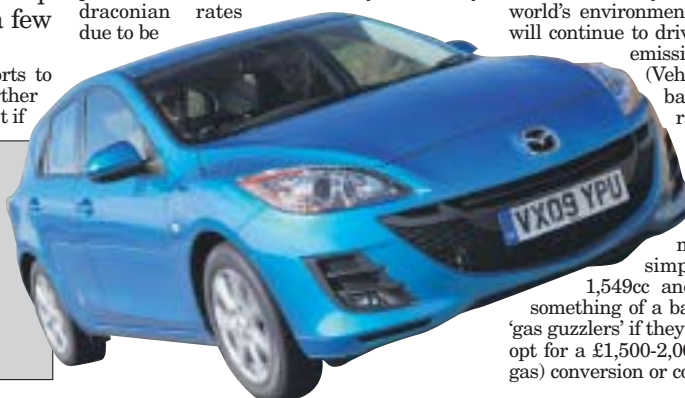
Chancellor Alistair Darling has taken the pressure off a bit after an outcry induced by draconian rates due to be

applied to larger cars, just as the recession clobbered the economy.

But Labour – and a Conservative government is unlikely to be different due to the world's environmental worries – has said it will continue to drive down vehicle sizes and emissions by using tough VED

(Vehicle Excise Duty) rates, based on CO<sub>2</sub> emissions rather than fuel consumption and applying only to cars registered after March 1, 2001.

Inconsistent emissions data on older cars means these are taxed simply at £120/year up to 1,549cc and then £185 if larger – something of a bargain for owners of older 'gas guzzlers' if they can bear higher fuel bills, opt for a £1,500-2,000 LPG (liquid petroleum gas) conversion or cover relatively few miles.



## Essential guide to where you can save

■ Village Hotel, hotel and leisure club in Maidstone is offering a free bottle of house wine when you present your voucher at time of booking your office Christmas lunch before November 1 – minimum table of four to qualify – available from [www.vouchers-forkent.co.uk](http://www.vouchers-forkent.co.uk)

■ KOS is offering a porous seepage hose, so you can save time and money and use up to 70 per cent less water. From only £19.99, save £35 on RRP

■ Northgate Alfa motor dealer in Canterbury is offering air conditioning services for £79.95, plus VAT

■ KOS is offering Severin Electric BBQ. Save £30 on offer price of £149.99, RRP £179.99

■ Baileys Nissan motor dealer in Canterbury is offering 15 per cent off MOTs

■ Living Out log cabin store, Chestfield, Maidstone is offering 10 per cent off everything

■ KOS is offering a £200 saving on the Toyota CB04T Mark II sewing machine, only £99.99 inc p&p, RRP £299.99

■ Chambers Motorcycles in Maidstone is offering free oil filter when you have your bike serviced in the service department

■ KOS is offering rechargeable micro luggage scales £19.99

■ KOS is offering the Extreme bra for £24.99

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Official Government Test Environmental Data - Fuel Consumption Figures mpg (litres/100km): Corsa SXi Range: urban 35.3 (8.0) - 49.6 (5.7), extra-urban 56.5 (5.0) - 74.3 (3.8), combined 46.3 (6.1) - 62.8 (4.5), CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions 146 - 119 g/km.

Model shown may have optional extras available at an extra cost. 3 Years OE Finance available with 20% minimum deposit. Finance by GMAC UK plc, applicants must be aged 18 or over. Finance offer available at participating retailers. UK registered vehicles only. To be eligible for the Corsa Free Insurance offer Corsa SXi drivers must be aged between 19-35 and will need to have held a full UK/EU driving licence for at least 2 years. A compulsory excess of £250 will apply. Please note that additional excesses do apply in respect of young drivers and modifications. Vauxhall Motor Insurance is underwritten by Prudential Insurance plc, authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority. Free insurance in Northern Ireland is underwritten by AXA Insurance Limited, regulated by the Financial Services Authority. The free insolvency redundancy cover is optional and is offered to customers who take out a finance agreement with SAAFC from a participating PSA-authorised retailer. The cover, which is subject to eligibility, is for the first 24 months of the finance agreement (excluding the first 90 days), and is up to a maximum of 12 monthly payments. Terms and Conditions apply. Please refer to the further details of cover. The insurance is provided by Finance Insurance Company Limited. Other providers of redundancy cover are available. For more information see [www.vauxhall.co.uk/finance](http://www.vauxhall.co.uk/finance). £2000 Government Scrappage Allowance is dependent on the vehicle meeting the full Government Scrappage Allowance criteria. All other sales categories are excluded. Offers may not apply to all retailer stocks. Offers apply to selected new vehicles ordered or registered between 02/10/09 and 02/12/09, and are subject to status, eligibility, terms and conditions.



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Providing Residential Care for Adults with Learning Disabilities

We currently require a Support Worker to cover shifts for Nights. To work 3 to 4 Nights per week  
All posts requires a NVQ Level 2 required minimum of 6 months experience  
Interested candidates should apply in writing enclosing a recent CV.

Administrative Manager – Christine Morgan  
Hill Farm  
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Kent ME9 8LZ

Previous applicants need not apply

## Assistant Manager Required For Residential Care Home In Folkestone

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Must have Minimum NVQ Level 3 Qualification, and Experience in the role above.

Please call Miss Julia Carter (Home Manager)  
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Subject to satisfactory CRB Check

## Brambles Care Home

### We require a HOUSEKEEPER

19.5 hours pw  
to join our small team providing cleaning and kitchen support to our elderly residents  
Contact Kevin or Sheila for a job description and application form.

WYE, ASHFORD - Tel: 01233 813217

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4pm-8am nights  
3 nights first week and 4 nights second week  
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Opportunities are available to both male and female candidates.

## Brambles Care Home require an Assistant Manager

32 hours pw

Assisting the manager to lead our staff team to deliver excellent quality care to the homes elderly residents .

Applicants will be self motivated and enthusiastic with exceptional Interpersonal skills and previous experience in a supervisory role within a care setting.

Applicants will hold suitable care qualifications and will possess good levels of IT skills.  
The post requires some weekend and on-call working.

For an informal discussion, a job description and application form contact

Kevin or Sheila  
Bramble Lane, Wye, Ashford, Kent TN25 5EE  
Tel: 01233 813217



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Only suitable for qualified Counsellors (or in final year of Diploma)  
Starting January 2010 consisting of 30 hours over 8 evenings and 2 Saturdays  
Cost is £200 which can be refunded if the Counsellor completes 50hrs counselling for East Kent Rapeline

For an application form for either course please contact: Kate or Debbie on 01227 451753 or E-mail: [info@eastkentrapeline.com](mailto:info@eastkentrapeline.com)

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If it's time for you to enjoy the rewards you deserve please write enclosing your CV, quoting reference SVS329/KOS, to Alice Forsyth, HR Officer, Saga Group Limited, Enbrook Park, Folkestone, Kent CT20 3SE or e-mail: [human.resources@saga.co.uk](mailto:human.resources@saga.co.uk) Alternatively, please call 01303 774888 for an application form or download one from our website.

Closing date: 9 October 2009.

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The successful applicant will have a local authority background as either a Social Work Assistant or residential/education services. You will have significant experience of a fostering environment and be able to demonstrate a good understanding of support to foster carers and young people in care. Contracting and commissioning experience and a marketing/PR qualification would be advantageous.

Your focus will be on good placement matching, professional support and credibly representing FosterCare UK. An ability to understand and manage challenge and risk is essential for this post.

You will have the commercial skill-set necessary to respond flexibly and creatively to duty matters and support the social work team in effectively delivering outstanding services to our young people, foster carers and local authority partners.

**Independent Form F Assessors**  
£1600 per Assessment

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**Independent Support Workers/Mentors**  
Hourly rate payment

Additional Support Workers/Mentors are required to complete a range of duties on a bespoke basis, in particular we are interested in people who have worked on a 1:1 basis with young people, supervised contact and offered driving and escorting services.

**Apply now!**

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For an information pack and application form, please telephone or email: [enquiries@fostercareuk.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@fostercareuk.co.uk) quoting the position you are interested in.

We value skills and are committed to the further development of our people to ensure we remain at the forefront of the profession.

**fostercareuk**

### TERMS AND CONDITIONS

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- Advertisements will be accepted only on the express condition that the advertiser warrants that the advertisement does not in any way contravene any existing legislation and in particular the Trade and Description Act 1968 and the Consumer Credit Act 1974.
- It is the responsibility of all advertisers to ensure that all advertising meets all forms of government legislation and KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd (the "media owner") takes no responsibility for liability in errors and omissions to the content of our media.
- All rates quoted are subject to VAT at the rate currently in force at the time the advertisement appears.
- All rates within the annual advertising agreement will be rate protected for 12 months from the first date of publication under the signed agreement.
- Any unsuitable material posted on any website belonging to KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd by the advertiser or any associated third party will be removed or refused. All passwords and security supplied to the advertiser by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd in relation to the use of the posting of material via the media owner's online administration tool will be the responsibility of the advertiser. The advertiser indemnifies KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd against any damages as a result of misuse of these privileges by either the advertiser or any third party given password privileges by the advertiser.
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- No liability is accepted for any loss or damage alleged to have arisen through delay in forwarding replies to Box numbers, however caused, nor for the loss or damage to any artwork supplied.
- Claims for any error or inaccuracy in your media messages with KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd must be made in writing to the accounts department within 10 days of publishing.
- KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd accepts no responsibility for any errors or omissions made on their websites by the advertiser.
- KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd has the right to cancel the advertiser's annual membership without notice should the advertiser deliberately publish out of date material or content on any of the media owner's online digital platforms. KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd will seek to recover, in full, all outstanding invoices in relation to the signed annual membership as a result of the advertiser's negligence in this regard and reserves the right to claim damages for any potential vesallous action via the advertiser.
- Advertisers are requested to check their advertisements after the first insertion. The media owner will not be responsible for any errors on subsequent insertions, which have not been advised to them in writing.
- A minimum of one month's notice must be given in writing for any cancellation of the signed annual advertiser's agreement. Upon cancellation, all discounts from KOS Media's standard effective media advertising rate card (July 2008-June 2009) will be recalculated and adjusted accordingly in line with KOS Media's standard media rate card (effective July 2008-June 2009) and will reflect the revised length of commitment denoted by the advertiser's written cancellation. Any surcharges, refunds or costs in relation to the production of the advertiser's TV commercial for the commitment set out within the advertiser's agreement will be met in full by the advertiser as per KOS Media's standard media advertising rate card (July 2008-June 2009). Discounts will be reapplied and any refunds or surcharges will be paid by either party within 30 days of the advertiser's written cancellation. Any other advertising placed must give a minimum of seven days' written notice and any discounts given for series bookings will be forfeited by the advertiser upon cancellation.
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- Each advertiser accepts that their ranking and position within KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd's search engine will be equal to those within their category (Platinum, Gold, Silver, Bronze, etc) other than they will be ranked based on the search engine criteria of optimisation within their level (Platinum, Gold, Silver or Bronze).
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b. In the event that payment is not received by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd or RBS Factoring by the due date, the media owner shall be entitled to suspend all further advertising until payment is received and/or repudiate the contract and make any surcharges for breaking the contract.  
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d. Notwithstanding anything in these terms and conditions or implied to the contrary, in the event of the Advertiser ceasing to use the services of KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd (for whatever reason), the advertiser shall be liable to pay to the Advertiser to the date of cessation shall fall due for immediate payment.  
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- Advertising Agency commission will be allowed to those advertisers recognised by the Newspaper Society, but shall not exceed ten per cent and will be subject to the terms of that recognition. This commission will not be allowed if the Advertising Agency fails to meet the terms.
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- The Advertiser agrees to indemnify KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd in respect of all costs, damages or other charges falling upon the media owners or any of the companies within the KOS Media Group as the result of legal action or threatened legal action or threatened legal arising from the publication of any advertisement or advertising promotion.
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- Copyright in advertisements produced wholly or partially by the media owners belong to KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd. Advertisers may not reproduce such advertisements without the media owner's written consent.

All terms and conditions stated above are in place to protect the advertiser, the media owner and the communities they serve within the public domain as well as the beneficial rights of individuals and organisations. KOS Media will endeavour to always act reasonably in applying its terms and conditions.

Effective from June 2008

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Closing Date: 16 October 2009

We are seeking to appoint

**NORTHFLEET SCHOOL FOR GIRLS**  
 Hall Road, Northfleet, Kent DA11 8AQ

**SCHOOL INCLUSION OFFICER**  
**£13,272-£14,598 p.a.**

**Up to 35 Hours per week (8.15 am to 3.45 p.m.) Term Time Only**  
**Initially a one year fixed term contract to 31.8.2010**

The role will involve

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A flexible approach to working and the ability to work as part of a team and under your own initiative are essential. Good communication skills at all levels are essential.

Experience of working with young people in an educational, Youth and Community or similar environment would be an advantage.

Please submit full CV giving details of previous experience and the name of two referees to Mrs S Chisholm, Personnel Administrator at Northfleet School for Girls, Hall Road, Northfleet, Kent DA11 8AQ or email: [personnel@northfleetgirls.kent.sch.uk](mailto:personnel@northfleetgirls.kent.sch.uk)

Closing date for applications: 12 October 2009

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We are seeking to appoint

**RECEPTIONIST/ADMINISTRATOR**  
**Afternoon/Evening Term Time Only – 3 pm to 7 pm (9.30 pm)**  
**Core 20 hours per week /Term Time Only**  
**Salary Scale Kent Scheme Grade 4 £7218 to £7584**

The successful applicant will be computer literate, have excellent communication skills enabling them to communicate effectively with both students and adults, and be able to prioritise and work under pressure. Confident and competent use of the telephone is essential. A qualified first aider would be preferred, although training will be given.

This is a job share position and hours of work will be 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. Monday to Thursday and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday - 39 weeks per year – with hours extending to 9.30 p.m. when required. Cover for during the day may occasionally also be needed.

Please submit full CV giving details of previous experience and why you feel this is the post for you to Mrs S Chisholm, Personnel Administrator at Northfleet School for Girls, Hall Road, Northfleet, Kent DA11 8AQ or email: [personnel@northfleetgirls.kent.sch.uk](mailto:personnel@northfleetgirls.kent.sch.uk)

Closing Date for applications: 12 October 2009



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### Minibus Driver and Maintenance (Kent Scheme 5 £16,793 - £18,471)

#### FULL TIME

Hours to be worked flexible in order to meet the complex needs of the students.

Clean driving licence is essential; PCV driving licence and trade qualification are desirable.

Valence School is a KCC all age residential school for children and young people with physical disabilities, complex medical needs and associated learning and communication difficulties.

*Valence School is committed to safeguarding and promoting every student's welfare. We expect all staff to share our commitment. The successful applicants will require an enhanced Criminal Records Bureau Check.*

For further information and an application form, please contact Lee-Anne Fossett. Closing date for applications is Friday 16th October 2009.

**Valence School, Westerham, Kent TN16 1QN**  
Tel:- 07887 727182 Fax: 01959-565046  
e-mail: [vacancies@valence.kent.sch.uk](mailto:vacancies@valence.kent.sch.uk)



Sir Joseph Williamson's Mathematical School  
Maidstone Road, Rochester, Kent ME1 3EL  
Tel: 01634 844008  
Email: [harrisonj@sirjosephwilliamson.medway.sch.uk](mailto:harrisonj@sirjosephwilliamson.medway.sch.uk)  
Website: [www.sirjosephwilliamson.medway.sch.uk](http://www.sirjosephwilliamson.medway.sch.uk)

A Voluntary Controlled School with specialisms in Mathematics, Computing and Humanities

An 11-18 Boys' Grammar School of 1180 students including 300 in the co-educational Sixth Form

'OUTSTANDING' Ofsted November 2008 - "a buzz of excitement pervades the school"

### Teacher of GCSE and A Level Mathematics Salary negotiable according to experience and skills

Required for January 2010 a teacher of GCSE and A Level Mathematics. We are looking for an excellent practitioner to join this committed team of specialist teachers. The department is housed in a purpose-built Mathematics Suite. Examination results at both GCSE and A Level are outstanding and around 80 students take A level Mathematics each year.

A TLR payment is available for a suitable applicant, and the school would be willing to support progression to Advanced Skills Teacher status.

This is an excellent opportunity to join a thriving, over-subscribed selective school, designated 'outstanding' by OFSTED in November 2008. The School has recently achieved a Medway Council Gold Award in recognition of excellence in continuing professional development.

If you are interested in working with bright, talented pupils, many of whom go on to study Mathematics at university, then please contact the Headteacher's PA, Mrs Jacqueline Harrison, 01634 844008 or visit our website [www.sirjosephwilliamson.medway.sch.uk](http://www.sirjosephwilliamson.medway.sch.uk) where further details and an application form can be downloaded.

We are committed to the safeguarding and wellbeing of children and any offer of employment will be subject to a satisfactory Enhanced Criminal Records Bureau check.

Closing date for applications - 7th October 2009



## THE THOMAS AVELING SCHOOL



(A Foundation Technology College)  
Arethusa Rd, Rochester, Kent ME1 2UW Headteacher: Mr P Jackson, BSc  
Tel: 01634 844809 Fax: 01634 818385  
Email: [office@thomasaveling.co.uk](mailto:office@thomasaveling.co.uk) Website: [www.thomasaveling.co.uk/jobs](http://www.thomasaveling.co.uk/jobs)

### 2 x Site Services Officers – Facilities and Amenities Lettings

Salary: NJC Scale pro-rata D1 point 7 – Point 16  
(presently £12,787 - £16,440)

Part-time (18.5 hours per week) including holiday periods,  
Hours are envisaged to be:

Post 1: Friday 4:00pm - 7:00pm; Saturday 9:00am - 5:30pm; Sunday 9:30am - 4:30pm  
Post 2: Sunday 9:30am - 4:30pm; Monday-Thursday 4:00pm - 7:00pm.  
(Some flexibility of actual working times is required with potential for future increase of these hours)

The ideal candidates should be self motivated, responsive to demand, capable of working under pressure and on their own initiative as required. Formal qualifications in DIY and grounds maintenance are not essential; however, candidates should be able to demonstrate a practical aptitude for general building/grounds maintenance.

The posts require some clerical administrative undertaking. Primary responsibility of the roles will be to support and assist the activities of the site team and the on-site lettings during both evenings and weekends. Please visit [www.thomasaveling.co.uk](http://www.thomasaveling.co.uk) for further details of the post and an application form.

Closing date for applications: Monday 12th October 2009

Short-listed candidates only will be contacted for interview which will take place on Monday 19th October 2009

The Thomas Aveling School is: - an Equal opportunities Employer

- committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all students and an enhanced CRB check will be required for all successful applicants.

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### CAF Co-ordinator

Starting salary £30,219, with progression through contribution related pay to £35,724 per annum

#### Full-time

This is an exciting and innovative opportunity to manage and further develop the effective co-ordination of the Kent Common Assessment Framework (CAF) in Thanet.

You will be working with officers and practitioners across Kent County Council directorate and Kent Children's Trust Partner Agencies to ensure there is an effective process established in Thanet.

You will need substantial experience of leadership, management of change, staff supervision and a high level of political and organisational skill. Tact and diplomacy are pre-requisites along with a commitment to improving the outcomes for children and their families. You will be required to monitor and review the integrated systems and framework to ensure the needs identified through the CAF process can be addressed. As Thanet will benefit from extra resources to address the high level of need, you will also be able to develop the process to promote family assessments through the 'Think Family' pilot.

This post will be based at Clover House, Whitstable and will involve travelling to Thanet for meetings.

This post is subject to an Enhanced Disclosure Application to the Criminal Records Bureau.

Previous applicants need not apply.

To apply, visit [www.kent.gov.uk/jobs](http://www.kent.gov.uk/jobs)  
Alternatively, please email [recruitment.line@kent.gov.uk](mailto:recruitment.line@kent.gov.uk)  
or call 0845 8247 904. Please quote reference number CFE/09/0421.

Closing date: Midday 5th October 2009.

Interviews are expected to take place on the afternoons of 13th & 14th October 2009.



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## Administration, Secretarial, PA

### Administrator and PA to Doctor

#### Canterbury

**Salary:** TBC  
**Closing Date:** 16/10/2009  
 Full-time/ Part-time/Jobshare Are you looking for a change in direction or looking to take a new route with your skills? An opportunity has arisen within a rapidly expanding, exceptional health centre. The position is extremely sought after and is available immediately. Administrator and PA to Doctor of a rapidly expanding health care practice. We require minimum qualifications of 5 GCSE's Grade C and above (must include English and Mathematics) Basic computer skills are preferable: Proficient user of Sage 50 and Microsoft Office, particularly Word, Excel and Publisher • Hard working and motivated • Enthusiastic and committed • Organised and efficient Work well solo • Works well within a team • Thrives on self improvement and success  
**To apply/more information:** Lesley Spicer  
 Wellness Practice  
 Quoting Job Ref: ISC1  
 Tel: 01227 789977  
 Email admin@ideal spinecentre.co.uk

### Administrative Assistant / Clinical Assistant

#### Canterbury

**Salary:** TBC  
**Closing Date:** 24/10/09  
 FULL-TIME OR JOBSHARE • Hard working and motivated • Enthusiastic and committed • Organised and efficient • Work well solo • Works well within a team • Thrives on self improvement and success. We require minimum qualifications of 5 GCSE's Grade C and above (must include English and Mathematics). Basic computer skills are preferable. No clinical experience necessary as full training will be given. Apply for this position if you consider yourself to be confident and outgoing. If you think you have what we are looking for, please apply in writing with your CV to: Lesley Spicer, The Wellness Practice Ltd, Blean, Nr Canterbury, Kent CT2 9EB.  
**To apply/more information:** Lesley Spicer  
 Wellness Practice  
 Quoting Job Ref: kos  
 Tel: 01227789977  
 Email admin@ideal spinecentre.co.uk

### RECEPTIONIST/ ADMINISTRATOR

#### Dartford

**Salary:** £7,218 to £7,584  
**Closing Date:** 12 October 2009  
 We are seeking to appoint a RECEPTIONIST/ ADMINISTRATOR Afternoon/Evening Term Time Only – 3 pm to 7 pm (9.30 pm) Core 20 hours per week /Term Time Only **Salary** Scale Kent Scheme Grade 4 £7218 to £7584 The successful applicant will be computer literate, have excellent communication skills enabling them to communicate effectively with both students and adults, and be able to prioritise and work under pressure. Confident and competent use of the telephone is essential. A qualified first aider would be preferred, although training will be given. This is a job share position and hours of work will be 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. Monday to Thursday and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday - 39 weeks per year – with hours extending to 9.30 p.m. when required. Cover for during the day may occasionally also be needed. Please submit full CV giving details of previous experience and why you feel this is the post for you to Mrs S Chisholm, Personnel Administrator at Northfleet School for Girls, Hall Road, Northfleet, Kent DA11 8AQ or email: personnel@northfleetgirls.kent.sch.uk Closing Date for applications: 12 October 2009  
**To apply/more information:** Northfleet School for Girls  
 Quoting Job Ref: kos  
 Email personnel@northfleetgirls.kent.sch.uk

## Catering, Hospitality

### Chef

#### Canterbury

**Salary:** TBA  
**Closing Date:** 5th October 2009  
 Required to work 40 hours per week, on a rota basis, all year round. Minimum qualification required; City & Guilds 7061/2 or NVQ Level 2 or equivalent. Health and Hygiene Certificate an advantage. The King's School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and applicants must be willing to undergo child protection screening appropriate to the post, including checks with past employers and the Criminal Records Bureau. For an application form, please email the School's Personnel Department on recruitment@kings-bursary.co.uk or telephone on 01227 595655 (24 hour answerphone) Closing date for receipt of completed application forms : 5th October 2009

**To apply/more information:** Kings School  
 Quoting Job Ref: kos  
 Tel: 01227 595655  
 Email recruitment@kings-bursary.co.uk

### Catering Team Second in Charge

#### Ramsgate

**Salary:** £15,000 per annum  
**Closing Date:** Friday 9th October 2009  
 Stirling Way, Ramsgate, Kent CT12 6NB - Tele: 01843 593326  
 www.marloweacademy.co.uk Vacancy within Catering Team for Second in Charge This is an amazing opportunity for a talented and ambitious professional to join the academy. Experienced caterer required to support Catering Manager at The

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Marlowe Academy. First class kitchens producing 600 lunches daily plus a café providing light refreshments for students, staff and visitors. Successful candidates should be able to demonstrate 3 years catering experience, understanding of high volume catering, qualified to NVQ level 2/City & Guilds 706/2 and supervisory experience. Educational setting experience not necessary. Rewards: 40 hrs day time working; 25 days holiday per year to be taken outside of term time; uniform provided; opportunities to continue professional development; **Salary** £15,000 per annum. . Please send a copy of your C.V. and letter of application to the school or email jenniferspooner@marloweacademy.co.uk Enquiries or visits to the Academy are welcome. Please contact Jennifer Spooner on direct telephone number 01843 598550 or email to address above. We look forward to hearing from you. The closing date for post: Friday 9th October 2009  
**To apply/more information:** Marlowe Academy  
 Quoting Job Ref: kos  
 Tel: 01843 598550  
 Email jenniferspooner@marloweacademy.co.uk

## Child Care

### Foster Carers

**Kent**  
**Salary:** TBA

Make a difference -Be important in the life of a child - Foster a child • Looking for a new challenge? • Good career prospects • Excellent training and support • Use your skills to make a difference as part of a professional team • Have you considered becoming a therapeutic Foster Carer? For details and financial package call 01795 830006 or visit www.ktcc.co.uk  
**To apply/more information:** Kaleidoscope  
 Quoting Job Ref: kos  
 Tel: 01795 830006  
 Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

## Construction, Architecture, Surveyors

### COMMERCIAL WINDOW SURVEYOR

#### Kent

**Salary:** TBA  
 COMMERCIAL WINDOW SURVEYOR Attractive salary package, company car, pension and NVQ training South & South East You will be responsible for measuring properties for the installation of PVCU and Aluminium window and door products that are undergoing refurbishment. This role involves transferring surveyed data to a window design software package to create works instructions. You will be joining the surveying team who work across the South of England. Attention to detail and enthusiasm are important. Please apply by CV and covering letter to the Surveying Manager at 140 Newton Road, Ramsgate, Kent, CT12 6PP. 01843 850500 ron@piperwindows.co.uk We are an Equal Opportunities Employer.  
**To apply/more information:** Piper Windows  
 Quoting Job Ref: kos  
 Tel: 01843 850500  
 Email ron@piperwindows.co.uk

## Domestic

### Housekeeper

#### Ashford

**Salary:** TBA  
 Brambles Care Home We require a Housekeeper 19.5 hrs pw. To join our small team providing cleaning and kitchen support to our elderly residents. Contact Kevin or Sheila for a job description and application form. WYE, ASHFORD. Tel: 01233 813217  
**To apply/more information:** Brambles Care Home  
 Quoting Job Ref: kos  
 Tel: 01233 813217  
 Email info@bramblescure.co.uk

## Education, Teacher, School

### Maths Teachers

#### Kent

**Salary:** negotiable  
 Maths teachers required for long term and permanent positions throughout the South East of England in particular the areas of Bexley, Ramsgate, Chatham, and Rochester. We offer excellent rates of pay, long term and permanent positions and outstanding teacher socials. The South East office is staffed by qualified teachers with recent classroom and senior management experience. "We work for you, finding you the work that you want." If you are interested in local, regular work and being supported by a team of professional teachers who know what they are doing please contact Britny Goulet at 01732 373 340 or britny.goulet@timeplan.net.  
**To apply/more information:** Britny Goulet  
 Timeplan Education Group  
 Quoting Job Ref: 09-080917003  
 Tel: 01732 373 340  
 Email britny.goulet@timeplan.net

### Science Teachers

#### Kent

**Salary:** negotiable  
 Science teachers required for long term and permanent positions throughout the South East of England in the areas of Kent, Medway, East Sussex and especially West Sussex. We offer excellent rates of pay, long term and permanent positions and outstanding teacher socials. The South East office is staffed by qualified teachers with recent classroom and senior management experience. "We work for you, finding you the work that you want." If you are interested in local, regular work and being supported by a team of professional teachers who know what they are doing please contact Britny Goulet at 01732 373 340 or britny.goulet@timeplan.net.  
**To apply/more information:** Britny Goulet  
 Timeplan Education Group  
 Quoting Job Ref: 09-080917004  
 Tel: 01732 373 340  
 Email britny.goulet@timeplan.net

### Independent Form F Assessors

#### Kent

**Salary:** £1,600 per Assessment  
 Independent Form F Assessors £1600 per Assessment We are keen to recruit additional Independent Assessors that can undertake

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Competency based Form F Assessments across Kent, London, Surrey, Essex and Hertfordshire. For an information pack and application form, please telephone 0844 8001941 or email: enquiries@fostercareuk.co.uk quoting the position you are interested in. We value skills and are committed to the further development of our people to ensure we remain at the forefront of the profession.  
**To apply/more information:** FosterCare UK Ltd  
 Quoting Job Ref: kos  
 Tel: 0844 8001941  
 Email enquiries@fostercareuk.co.uk

### HEAD TEACHER

#### Broadstairs

**Salary:** TBA  
 HEAD TEACHER We require and enthusiastic Head Teacher for our Independent School in Broadstairs. The school is registered for 6 children all with emotional and behavioural difficulties. For full details please contact: Stephen Payne/Dawn Day stephen@stnicholaslodge.com 01843 232321  
**To apply/more information:** St Nicholas Lodge UK Ltd  
 Quoting Job Ref: kos  
 Tel: 01843 232321  
 Email stephen@stnicholaslodge.com

### NURSERY ASSISTANT

#### Maidstone

**Salary:** TBA  
 NURSERY ASSISTANT Permanent Position. 37 hours per week, full-time. Grade: Kent Scheme 3. South Borough Primary School, Maidstone, is seeking an experienced Nursery Assistant to work as part of our friendly and dynamic team. NVQ Level 3 in Early Years/Childcare is essential. For details, contact the school on 01622 752161. Closing date (applications): 2nd October 2009 Interviews: 7th October 2009 Start date: 9th November 2009 (or asap)  
**To apply/more information:** South Borough Primary School  
 Quoting Job Ref: kos  
 Tel: 01622 752161  
 Email apl

### Student Support Assistants

#### Tunbridge Wells

**Salary:** £7.53 - £8.29 per hour  
**Closing Date:** Friday 9th October 2009  
 Student Support Assistants Full time and part time hours available, Term Time Only. This post involves shift work in supporting students with all their needs both within and outside the classroom. £7.53 - £8.29 per hour  
 Valence School is a KCC all age residential school for children and young people with physical disabilities, complex medical needs and

associated learning and communication difficulties. Valence School is committed to safeguarding and promoting every student's welfare. We expect all staff to share our commitment. The successful applicants will require an enhanced Criminal Records Bureau Check. For further information and an application form, please contact Lee-Anne Fossett. Closing date for applications is Friday 9th October 2009. Valence School, Westerham, Kent TN16 1QN Tel:- 07887 727182 Fax: 01959-565046 e-mail: vacancies@valence.kent.sch.uk  
**To apply/more information:** Valence School  
 Quoting Job Ref: kos  
 Tel: 07887 727182  
 Email vacancies@valence.kent.sch.uk

### Night Security Caretaker

#### Tunbridge Wells

**Salary:** £7.53 - £8.29  
**Closing Date:** Friday 9th October 2009  
 Night Security Caretaker (16 weekends per year) 27 hours per week Friday - Sunday £7.53 - £8.29 + 1/3 Night Enhancement between 10pm and 7am £2.51 - £2.63 per hour  
 Valence School is a KCC all age residential school for children and young people with physical disabilities, complex medical needs and communication difficulties. Valence School is committed to safeguarding and promoting every student's welfare. We expect all staff to share our commitment. The

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successful applicants will require an enhanced Criminal Records Bureau Check. For further information and an application form, please contact Lee-Anne Fossett. Closing date for applications is Friday 9th October 2009. Valence School, Westerham, Kent TN16 1QN Tel:- 07887 727182 Fax: 01959-565046 e-mail: vacancies@valence.kent.sch.uk  
**To apply/more information:** Valence School  
 Quoting Job Ref: kos  
 Tel: 07887 727182  
 Email vacancies@valence.kent.sch.uk

### Night Security Caretaker

#### Tonbridge

**Salary:** £7.53 - £8.29  
**Closing Date:** £7.53 - £8.29  
 Night Security Caretaker (37 hours per week Term Time Only) Monday – Thursday – 39 weeks per year £7.53 - £8.29 + 1/3 Night Enhancement between 10pm and 7am £2.51 - £2.63 per hour  
 Valence School is a KCC all age residential school for children and young people with physical disabilities, complex medical needs and communication difficulties. Valence School is committed to safeguarding and promoting every student's welfare. We expect all staff to share our commitment. The successful applicants will require an enhanced Criminal Records Bureau Check. For further information and an application form, please contact Lee-Anne Fossett. Closing date for applications is Friday 9th October 2009. Valence School, Westerham, Kent TN16 1QN Tel:- 07887 727182 Fax: 01959-565046 e-mail: vacancies@valence.kent.sch.uk  
**To apply/more information:** Valence School  
 Quoting Job Ref: kos  
 Tel: 07887 727182  
 Email vacancies@valence.kent.sch.uk

### TEACHER OF SCIENCE

#### Gravesend

**Salary:** TBA  
**Closing Date:** 16 October 2009  
 Saint George's of England School Meadow Road, Gravesend, Kent DA11 7LS Tel: 01474 533082  
 Church of England, Voluntary Aided, Humanities College 11-18, Mixed, Comprehensive School TEACHER OF SCIENCE To cover Maternity Leave from November 2009 to June 2010 Main Pay Scale We require a well-qualified, enthusiastic and innovative teacher of science who is committed to raising the achievement of our students. Saint George's C of E School is a successful, innovative and over-subscribed comprehensive school. Contact us to request further details and an application form. Email dhariwal@saintgeorgescof.e.kent.sch.uk or visit our website www.saintgeorgescofe.kent.sch.uk Closing Date : 16 October 2009  
**To apply/more information:** St George's CoE School  
 Quoting Job Ref: kos  
 Email dhariwal@saintgeorgescofe.kent.sch.uk





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### Qualified Teacher

#### Maidstone

**Salary:** TBA  
**Closing Date:** Friday 09th October  
THE QUEST SCHOOL We wish to appoint a qualified teacher and teaching assistant to work at our specialist school for children with autism age 8-16 years. Start date – January 2010. The right candidates will be dynamic and enthusiastic. Special needs experience preferred, a desire to make a difference in children's lives essential. Please download an application form at [www.questschool.co.uk](http://www.questschool.co.uk) and return to: Quest School, The Old Stables, Church Farm, Church Rd, Offham, West Malling, ME19 5NX. Tel: 01732 522700 Email: [quest\\_school@btconnect.com](mailto:quest_school@btconnect.com) Closing date for applications: Friday 09th October. Quest School is an equal opportunities employer. We are committed to promoting and safeguarding the welfare of children.  
**To apply/more information:** Quest School. Quoting Job Ref: kos

Tel: 01732 522700  
Email [quest\\_school@btconnect.com](mailto:quest_school@btconnect.com)

### Teaching Assistant

#### Maidstone

**Salary:** TBA  
**Closing Date:** Friday 09th October  
THE QUEST SCHOOL We wish to appoint a qualified teacher and teaching assistant to work at our specialist school for children with autism age 8-16 years. Start date – January 2010. The right candidates will be dynamic and enthusiastic. Special needs experience preferred, a desire to make a difference in children's lives essential. Please download an application form at [www.questschool.co.uk](http://www.questschool.co.uk) and return to: Quest School, The Old Stables, Church Farm, Church Rd, Offham, West Malling, ME19 5NX. Tel: 01732 522700 Email: [quest\\_school@btconnect.com](mailto:quest_school@btconnect.com) Closing date for applications: Friday 09th October. Quest School is an equal opportunities employer. We are committed to promoting and safeguarding the

welfare of children.

**To apply/more information:** Quest School. Quoting Job Ref: kos. Tel: 01732 522700. Email [quest\\_school@btconnect.com](mailto:quest_school@btconnect.com)

### Teacher of GCSE and A Level Mathematics

#### Rochester

**Salary:** TBA  
**Closing Date:** 7th October 2009  
Sir Joseph Williamson's Mathematical School, Maidstone Road, Rochester, Kent ME1 3EL. Tel: 01634 844008 email: [harrisonj@sirjosephwilliamson.medway.sch.uk](mailto:harrisonj@sirjosephwilliamson.medway.sch.uk). A Voluntary Controlled School with specialisms in Mathematics, Computing and Humanities. An 11-18 Boys' Grammar School of 1180 students including 300 in the co-educational Sixth Form. 'OUTSTANDING' Ofsted November 2008 – "a buzz of excitement pervades the school". Teacher of GCSE and A Level Mathematics. Salary negotiable according to experience and skills. Required for January 2010. A teacher of GCSE and A

Level Mathematics. We are looking for an excellent practitioner to join this committed team of specialist teachers. The department is housed in a purpose-built Mathematics Suite. Examination results at both GCSE and A Level are outstanding and around 80 students take A level Mathematics each year. A TLR payment is available for a suitable applicant, and the school would be willing to support progression to Advanced Skills Teacher status. This is an excellent opportunity to join a thriving, over-subscribed selective school, designated 'outstanding' by OFSTED in November 2008. The School has recently achieved a Medway Council Gold Award in recognition of excellence in continuing professional development. If you are interested in working with bright, talented pupils, many of whom go on to study Mathematics at university, then please contact the Headteacher's PA, Mrs Jacqueline Harrison, 01634 844008 or visit our website [www.sirjosephwilliamson.medway.sch.uk](http://www.sirjosephwilliamson.medway.sch.uk)

[medway.sch.uk](http://www.medway.sch.uk) where further details and an application form can be downloaded. We are committed to the safeguarding and wellbeing of children and any offer of employment will be subject to a satisfactory Enhanced Criminal Records Bureau check. Closing date for applications – 7th October 2009  
**To apply/more information:** Sir Joseph Williamson's Mathematical School. Quoting Job Ref: kos. Tel: 01634 844008. Email [harrisonj@sirjosephwilliamson.medway.sch.uk](mailto:harrisonj@sirjosephwilliamson.medway.sch.uk)

### Subject Leader in Mathematics

#### Aylesford

**Salary:** TLR2b  
**Closing Date:** 12th October 2009  
Aylesford School – Sports College is an innovative forward looking Specialist Sports College. We have a strong community ethos where we put the learner at the heart of everything we do. At Aylesford School – Sports College we can offer you:- \* A brand new school. \*

Outstanding new facilities in all areas. \* NQT/ New staff induction package that is second to none. \* A highly regarded CPD programme with personal professional pathways. \* Your own laptop. \* A buzzing and vibrant staff who are friendly and keen to help one another. \* A forward looking curriculum with individualised pathways for students. We are looking for a committed professional who:- \* Can motivate students through the curriculum. \* Has the desire to make the difference. \* Is focussed on developing their career further. \* Is able to teach Mathematics at all key stages. \* Can lead a team of good staff. \* Can develop this forward thinking department. Closing date is 12th October 2009 at 12.00 noon. Interviews to be held on Friday 16th October 2009

**To apply/more information:** Jill McKenna. Aylesford School - Sports College. Quoting Job Ref: kos. Tel: 01622 717341

Email [jill.mckenna@aylesford.kent.sch.uk](mailto:jill.mckenna@aylesford.kent.sch.uk)

### ICT Teacher

#### Kent

**Salary:** £120  
**Closing Date:** 17/12/2009  
ICT teacher needed for an immediate start at an East Sussex Co-Educational School for 200 students and over 30 nationalities including English day students. Students and parents select the school because they know it is a school that contributes something special to their education. Its size allows the school to preserve a more home-like atmosphere, where the care and welfare of students is a priority. Small classes ensure pupils receive more individual attention, and there is an emphasis on traditional values and good manners. All applicants must be qualified to teach and have recent experience working with children. If interested please contact Britny Goulet on 01732 373 340 or by email at [britny.goulet@timeplan.net](mailto:britny.goulet@timeplan.net)

**To apply/more information:** Britny Timeplan Education Group. Quoting Job Ref: 09-090924009. Tel: Goulet. Email [britny.goulet@timeplan.net](mailto:britny.goulet@timeplan.net)

### Music Teacher

#### Ashford

**Salary:** £120  
Music teacher needed to cover a maternity leave beginning on 2nd November though until 7th June. Teacher will be required to teach up to GCSE level as well as BTEC at a large over subscribed mixed comprehensive Medway school with good management and resources. The staff at the school are very supportive and all new and overseas staff have a mentor appointed to them. All applicants must be qualified to teach and have recent experience working with children. The post is suitable for experienced teachers as well as NQT's; British or overseas trained teachers. If interested please contact Britny Goulet on 01732 373 340 or by email at





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britny.goulet@  
timeplan.net.

**To apply/more information:**  
Britny Goulet  
Timeplan Education Group  
Quoting Job Ref: 09-  
090925003  
Tel: 01732 373 340  
Email britny.goulet  
@timeplan.net

### Design and Technology Teacher

#### Chatham

**Salary:** £120  
**Closing Date:** 23/07/2010  
Design and technology teacher required for a January start through until the end of the academic year at a large secondary school in The Medway area of Kent. This school has had a recent very positive Ofsted inspection. Good support program for newly qualified and overseas teachers. Good resources and a very well respected senior leadership. All applicants must be qualified to teach and have recent experience working with children. If interested please contact Britny Goulet on 01732 373 340 or by email at britny.goulet@timeplan.net.

**To apply/more information:**  
Britny Goulet  
Timeplan Education Group  
Quoting Job Ref: 09-  
090914002  
Tel: 01732 373 340  
Email britny.goulet@  
timeplan.net

### Teacher of German Required

#### Maidstone

**Salary:** £22,000 - £30,000  
Are you a qualified teacher of German looking to teach A-level German within a leading Grammar school in Kent? I am looking for a well qualified experienced teacher, or a confident and ambitious NQT to start full time in January 2010 or sooner.

**To apply/more information:**  
Rachel  
Molly Maid  
Quoting Job Ref: kos  
Tel: 01892 676076  
Email secondary  
@termtime teachers.co.uk

### Teacher of Spanish Required

#### Medway

**Salary:** £22,000 - £30,000  
A confident and dedicated teacher of Spanish is required to join a leading Grammar school in the Medway area. Experience of AS/A2 is essential, and TLR's will be available for the right candidate.

**To apply/more information:**  
Rachel  
Molly Maid  
Quoting Job Ref: kos  
Tel: 01892 676076  
Email secondary@  
termtime teachers.co.uk

### 2 x Site Services Officers

#### Rochester

**Salary:** £12,787 - £16,440 pro rata  
**Closing Date:** Monday 12th October 2009  
THE THOMAS AVELING SCHOOL (A Foundation Technology College) Arethusa Road, Rochester, Kent. ME1 2UW.  
Headteacher: Mr P Jackson, Bsc Tel: 01634 844809 Fax: 01634 818385 Email: office@thomasaveling.co.uk

2 x Site Services Officers – Facilities and Amenities Lettings **Salary:** NJC Scale pro-rata D1 point 7 – Point 16 (presently £12,787 - £16,440) Part-time (18.5 hours per week) including holiday periods, Hours are envisaged to be: Post 1: Friday 4:00pm - 7:00pm; Saturday 9:00am - 5:30pm; Sunday 9:30am - 4:30pm Post 2: Sunday 9:30am – 4:30pm; Monday-Thursday 4:00pm - 7:00pm. (Some flexibility of actual working hours is required with potential for future increase of these hours) • The ideal candidates should be self motivated, responsive to demand, capable of working under pressure and on their own initiative as required. • Formal qualifications in DIY and grounds maintenance are not essential; however, candidates should be able to demonstrate a practical aptitude for general building/grounds maintenance. • The posts require some clerical administrative undertaking • Primary responsibility of the roles will be to support and assist the activities of the site team and the on-site lettings during both evenings and weekends. Please visit [www.thomasaveling.co.uk](http://www.thomasaveling.co.uk) for further details of the post and an application form. Closing date for applications: Monday 12th October 2009 Short-listed candidates only will be contacted for interview which will take place on Monday 19th October 2009 The Thomas Aveling School is: - an Equal opportunities Employer - committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all students and an enhanced CRB check will be required for all successful applicants.

**To apply/more information:**  
Thomas Aveling School  
Quoting Job Ref: kos  
Tel: 01634 844809  
Email office@  
thomasaveling.co.uk

### SCHOOL INCLUSION OFFICER

#### Dartford

**Salary:** £13,272-£14,598 p.a.  
**Closing Date:** 12 October 2009  
We are seeking to appoint SCHOOL INCLUSION

OFFICER £13,272-£14,598 p.a. Up to 35 Hours per week (8.15 am to 3.45 p.m.) Term Time Only Initially a one year fixed term contract to 31.8.2010 The role will involve • Running the school inclusion room (an alternative to fixed term exclusion) • Dealing with parental enquiries through telephone and face-to-face meetings including investigation and mediation. • Promoting good attendance, attitudes and behaviour at all times • Assisting with a range of administrative support including support to exclusion, discipline and other student related meetings. A flexible approach to working and the ability to work as part of a team and under your

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own initiative are essential. Good communication skills at all levels are essential. Experience of working with young people in an educational, Youth and Community or similar environment would be an advantage. Please submit full CV giving details of previous experience and the name of two referees to Mrs S Chisholm, Personnel Administrator at Northfleet School for Girls, Hall Road, Northfleet, Kent DA11 8AQ or email: [personnel@northfleetgirls.kent.sch.uk](mailto:personnel@northfleetgirls.kent.sch.uk) Closing date for applications: 12 October 2009  
**To apply/more information:**  
Northfleet School for Girls  
Quoting Job Ref: kos  
Email [personnel@northfleetgirls.kent.sch.uk](mailto:personnel@northfleetgirls.kent.sch.uk)

### HR, Recruitment

### Qualified Stylists and Beauticians

#### Ramsgate

**Salary:** TBA  
Qualified Stylists and Beauticians Required on a self-employed basis Rent a chair/room For more information please call 01843 592027 or 07792 971116  
**To apply/more information:**  
Marcello's  
Quoting Job Ref: kos  
Tel: 01843 592027  
Email [applications@jobsforkent.co.uk](mailto:applications@jobsforkent.co.uk)

### BEAUTY THERAPIST

#### Canterbury

**Salary:** TBA  
BEAUTY THERAPIST Must be very experienced Please apply in writing to Helen Pritchard Fleur De Lys 115 Station Road Birchington Kent CT7 9RE  
**To apply/more information:**  
Fleur de Lys  
Quoting Job Ref: kos  
Email [applications@jobsforkent.co.uk](mailto:applications@jobsforkent.co.uk)

### Motor Trade, Driver

#### Taxi Drivers

#### Sittingbourne

**Salary:** TBA  
Full & part time taxi drivers required. [www.a2cabs.co.uk](http://www.a2cabs.co.uk)  
**To apply/more information:**  
Elaine  
A2 Cabs Ltd  
Quoting Job Ref: kos  
Tel: 01795 431500  
Email [elaine@a2cabs.co.uk](mailto:elaine@a2cabs.co.uk)

### HGV 1-2 and 7.5T DRIVERS

#### Maidstone

**Salary:** TBA  
HGV 1-2 & 7.5T DRIVERS WANTED URGENT ONGOING CONTRACT - NIGHTS & WEEKENDS - MAIDSTONE AREA - OTHER WORK AVAILABLE IN ESSEX & KENT AREA TOO!!! PLEASE CALL - 0208 517 8165 BETWEEN 9am - 5pm AND ASK FOR COLIN OR SENAD Email: [driving@localstaffhire.co.uk](mailto:driving@localstaffhire.co.uk) LSH DRIVING DIVISION AGENCY  
**To apply/more information:**  
Local Staff Hire  
Quoting Job Ref: kos  
Tel: 0208 517 8165  
Email [driving@localstaffhire.co.uk](mailto:driving@localstaffhire.co.uk)

### Sales Consultant

#### Canterbury

**Salary:** TBA  
Baileys Nissan, Canterbury require a Sales Consultant Motor Trade experience essential of both Car and Commercial vehicles The position covers the sale of both New and Approved Used vehicles Apply with your CV either in Writing to Brian Smith, Dealer Principal Baileys Nissan Westminster Road Vauxhall Industrial Estate Canterbury CT1 1YY or e-mail [brian.smith@baileysnissan.co.uk](mailto:brian.smith@baileysnissan.co.uk)  
**To apply/more information:**  
Baileys Nissan  
Quoting Job Ref: kos  
Email [brian.smith@baileysnissan.co.uk](mailto:brian.smith@baileysnissan.co.uk)

### Nursing, Medicine, Care Work

#### Massage Therapist

#### Canterbury

**Salary:** 8 - 22 k per annum  
**Closing Date:** 12/10/ 2009  
Position available at Kent's leading Spinal Health Care Practice in Canterbury. We are looking for

hardworking and motivated massage therapists who are: Enthusiastic and committed to helping people Organised and efficient A Team Player Driven to attain self improvement and success Must have basic Massage qualification further in house training given Basic computer skills preferable No Clinical experience necessary as full training will be given NEW GRADUATES WELCOME! Apply for this position if you consider yourself to be confident and outgoing Earning ability from £8000 - £22000 per annum If you think you have what we are looking for, please apply in writing with your C.V. to Recruitment Manager: Lesley Spicer, The Wellness Practice LTD Blean Canterbury Kent CT2 9EB  
**To apply/more information:**  
Lesley Spicer  
Wellness Practice  
Quoting Job Ref: masthe 001  
Tel: 01227 789977  
Email [admin@idealspinecentre.co.uk](mailto:admin@idealspinecentre.co.uk)

**Supervising Social Worker**  
**London**  
**Salary:** £28 - £30k  
Supervising Social Worker SOUTH LONDON BASED **Salary** range - £28 - £30k (+ Benefits) p/t position As a qualified Social Worker, ideally with experience in fostering, we want the carers and children in care to benefit from your enthusiasm and creativity. Your commitment will be to improve outcomes for children and young people through the management and development of exceptional foster carers in South London and Surrey. On top of an excellent salary we offer a range of benefits including 25 days paid leave, the opportunity to 'work from home', career progression and a personal training account. Your role will involve regular travel and participation on the 'on call' duty rota. For an information pack and application form, please telephone 0844 8001941 or email: [enquiries@fostercareuk.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@fostercareuk.co.uk) quoting the position you are interested in. We value skills and are committed to the further development of our people to ensure we remain at the forefront of the profession.

**To apply/more information:**  
Fostercare UK Ltd  
Quoting Job Ref: kos  
Tel: 0844 8001941  
Email [enquiries@fostercareuk.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@fostercareuk.co.uk)

ordinator KENT BASED £16k (+ Benefits) f/t position The successful applicant will have a local authority background as either a Social Work Assistant or residential/education services. You will have significant experience of a fostering environment and be able to demonstrate a good understanding of support to foster carers and young people in care. Contracting and commissioning experience and a marketing/PR qualification would be advantageous. Your focus will be on good placement matching, professional support and credibly representing FosterCare UK. An ability to understand and manage challenge and risk is essential for this post. You will have the commercial skill-set necessary to respond flexibly and creatively to duty matters and support the social work team in effectively delivering outstanding services to our young people, foster carers and local authority partners. For an information pack and application form, please telephone 0844 8001941 or email: [enquiries@fostercareuk.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@fostercareuk.co.uk) quoting the position you are interested in. We value skills and are committed to the further development of our people to ensure we remain at the forefront of the profession.

**To apply/more information:**  
Fostercare UK Ltd  
Quoting Job Ref: kos  
Tel: 0844 8001941  
Email [enquiries@fostercareuk.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@fostercareuk.co.uk)

### Independent Support Workers/Mentors

#### Kent

**Salary:** TBA  
Independent Support Workers/Mentors Hourly rate payment Additional Support Workers/Mentors are required to complete a range of duties on a bespoke basis, in particular we are interested in people who have worked on a 1:1 basis with young people, supervised contact and offered driving and escorting services. For an information pack and application form, please telephone 0844 8001941 or email: [enquiries@fostercareuk.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@fostercareuk.co.uk) quoting the position you are interested in. We value skills and are committed to the further development of our people to ensure we remain at the forefront of the profession.

**To apply/more information:**  
Fostercare UK Ltd  
Quoting Job Ref: kos  
Tel: 0844 8001941  
Email [enquiries@fostercareuk.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@fostercareuk.co.uk)

### Assistant Manager

#### Ashford

**Salary:** TBA  
Brambles Care Home Require an Assistant Manager 32 hrs pw. Assisting the manager to lead our staff team to deliver excellent quality care to the homes elderly residents. Applicants will be self motivated and enthusiastic with exceptional Interpersonal skills and previous experience in a supervisory role within a care setting. Applicants will hold suitable care qualifications and will possess good levels of IT skills. The post requires some weekend and on-call working. For an informal discussion, a job description and application form contact Kevin or Sheila Bramble Lane WYE, ASHFORD, Kent TN25 5EE Tel: 01233 813217  
**To apply/more information:**  
Brambles Care Home  
Quoting Job Ref: kos  
Tel: 01233 813217  
Email [info@bramblescure.co.uk](mailto:info@bramblescure.co.uk)

### HOME HELP

#### Sevenoaks

**Salary:** £7.24 per hour  
HOME HELP for Sheltered Housing apartments in central Sevenoaks £7.24 per hour 22 hours a week (9am – 2.30pm Tuesday to Friday - with some possible flexibility) Duties will include general cleaning in residents flats, shopping, laundry etc. Pension scheme, free parking on site, Company sick pay after 6 mths, health plan. For details please ring Jay Drake, Personnel Manager on 01732 458762 We will apply for an Enhanced CRB Disclosure for this post  
**To apply/more information:**  
Rockdale House  
Quoting Job Ref: kos  
Tel: 01732 458762  
Email [enquiries@rockdale.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@rockdale.org.uk)

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### RESIDENTIAL SUPPORT WORKERS

#### Thanet

**Salary:** £11,620-£19,500 PA  
RESIDENTIAL VACANCIES THANET AREA SALARY RANGE £11,620-£19,500 PA PLUS INCREMENTS WE REQUIRE RESIDENTIAL SUPPORT WORKERS – ALL LEVELS UP TO AND

INCLUDING DEPUTY MANAGERS – TO WORK IN OUR NEW HOME. QUALIFICATIONS: NVQ 3 OR EQUIVALENT PREFERRED. HOWEVER TRAINING WILL BE PROVIDED FOR APPLICANTS WITH EVIDENT POTENTIAL AND / OR RELEVANT EXPERIENCE. CONTACT OUR SERVICES MANAGER ON 01227 369089 Email: [info@benecareltd.co.uk](mailto:info@benecareltd.co.uk) FOSTERING APPLICATIONS ARE WELCOMED FROM EXPERIENCED OR NEW FOSTER CARERS. WE ALSO REQUIRE QUALIFIED FORM F1 ASSESSORS AND INDEPENDENT SOCIAL WORKERS TO PROVIDE SUPPORT FOR OUR EXISTING CARERS. CONTACT OUR SERVICES MANAGER ON: 01227 362510. Email: [info@benecarefostering.co.uk](mailto:info@benecarefostering.co.uk) **To apply/more information:**  
Bene Care  
Quoting Job Ref: kos  
Tel: 01227 369089  
Email [info@benecareltd.co.uk](mailto:info@benecareltd.co.uk)

### FORM F1 ASSESSORS

#### Kent

**Salary:** TBA  
RESIDENTIAL VACANCIES THANET AREA SALARY RANGE £11,620-£19,500 PA PLUS INCREMENTS WE REQUIRE RESIDENTIAL SUPPORT WORKERS – ALL LEVELS UP TO AND INCLUDING DEPUTY MANAGERS – TO WORK IN OUR NEW HOME. QUALIFICATIONS: NVQ 3 OR EQUIVALENT PREFERRED. HOWEVER TRAINING WILL BE PROVIDED FOR APPLICANTS WITH EVIDENT POTENTIAL AND / OR RELEVANT EXPERIENCE. CONTACT OUR SERVICES MANAGER ON 01227 369089 Email: [info@benecareltd.co.uk](mailto:info@benecareltd.co.uk) FOSTERING APPLICATIONS ARE WELCOMED FROM EXPERIENCED OR NEW FOSTER CARERS. WE ALSO REQUIRE QUALIFIED FORM F1 ASSESSORS AND INDEPENDENT SOCIAL WORKERS TO PROVIDE SUPPORT FOR OUR EXISTING CARERS. CONTACT OUR SERVICES MANAGER ON: 01227 362510. Email: [info@benecarefostering.co.uk](mailto:info@benecarefostering.co.uk) **To apply/more information:**  
Bene Care  
Quoting Job Ref: kos  
Tel: 01227 362510  
Email [info@benecarefostering.co.uk](mailto:info@benecarefostering.co.uk)

### INDEPENDENT SOCIAL WORKERS

#### Kent

**Salary:** TBA  
RESIDENTIAL VACANCIES THANET AREA SALARY RANGE £11,620-£19,500 PA PLUS INCREMENTS WE REQUIRE RESIDENTIAL SUPPORT WORKERS – ALL LEVELS UP TO AND





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INCLUDING DEPUTY MANAGERS – TO WORK IN OUR NEW HOME. QUALIFICATIONS: NVQ 3 OR EQUIVALENT PREFERRED. HOWEVER TRAINING WILL BE PROVIDED FOR APPLICANTS WITH EVIDENT POTENTIAL AND / OR RELEVANT EXPERIENCE. CONTACT OUR SERVICES MANAGER ON 01227 369089 Email: info@benecareltd.co.uk FOSTERING APPLICATIONS ARE WELCOMED FROM EXPERIENCED OR NEW FOSTER CARERS. WE ALSO REQUIRE QUALIFIED FORM F1 ASSESSORS AND INDEPENDENT SOCIAL WORKERS TO PROVIDE SUPPORT FOR OUR EXISTING CARERS. CONTACT OUR SERVICES MANAGER ON: 01227 362510. Email: info@benecarefostering.co.uk www.benecareltd.co.uk

**To apply/more information:**  
Bene Care  
Quoting Job Ref: kos  
Tel: 01227 362510.  
Email info@benecarefostering.co.uk

#### Helpline Volunteers

**Canterbury**  
Salary: NA

For women and girls who are survivors of rape or childhood sexual abuse Helpline Volunteers We are currently looking for female helpline volunteers. We offer a free training course which consists of one evening a week for 10 weeks and will start 3rd November 2009. Counselling Training with: Louise MacKinney BA (Hons), MSc, DipCouns, MBACP (Snr.Accred), UKCP Only suitable for qualified Counsellors (or in final year of Diploma) Starting January 2010 consisting of 30 hours over 8 evenings and 2 Saturdays Cost is £200 which can be refunded if the Counsellor completes 50hrs counselling for East Kent Rapeline For an application form for either course please contact: Kate or Debbie on 01227 451753 or E-mail: info@eastkentrapeline.co.uk Section 7.2(d) of the Sex Discrimination Act 1975 applies. Charity No 1017581

**To apply/more information:**  
East Kent Rapeline  
Quoting Job Ref: kos  
Tel: 01227 451753  
Email info@eastkentrapeline.co.uk

#### Assistant Manager

**Folkestone**  
Salary: TBA  
Assistant Manager Required For Residential Care Home In Folkestone We are looking to recruit an enthusiastic and committed person. Must have Minimum NVQ Level 3 Qualification, and Experience in the role above. Please call Miss Julia Carter (Home Manager) on 01303 254019 Subject to satisfactory CRB Check

**To apply/more information:**  
Cumbria House Residential Home  
Quoting Job Ref: kos  
Tel: 01303 254019  
Email cumbriahouse@ashwoodhealthcare.co.uk

#### Support Worker

**Sittingbourne**  
Salary: TBA  
Forward Care (Residential) Ltd Providing Residential Care for Adults with Learning Disabilities We currently require a Support Worker to cover shifts for Nights. To work 3 to 4 Nights per week All posts requires a NVQ Level 2 required minimum of 6

months experience Interested candidates should apply in writing enclosing a recent CV. Administrative Manager – Christine Morgan Hill Farm 15 Keycol Hill Sittingbourne Kent ME9 8LZ Previous applicants need not apply

**To apply/more information:**  
Forward Care  
Quoting Job Ref: kos  
Email applications @jobsforkent.co.uk

#### Public Sector, Social Services

#### CAF Co-ordinator

**Thanet**  
Salary: £30,219  
Closing Date: Midday 5th October 2009.  
CAF Co-ordinator Starting salary £30,219, with progression through contribution related pay to £35,724 per annum Full-time This is an exciting and innovative opportunity to manage and further develop the effective co-ordination of the Kent Common Assessment Framework (CAF) in

Thanet. You will be working with officers and practitioners across Kent County Council directorate and Kent Children's Trust Partner Agencies to ensure there is an effective process established in Thanet. You will need substantial experience of leadership, management of change, staff supervision and a high level of political and organisational skill. Tact and diplomacy are pre-requisites along with a commitment to improving the outcomes for children and their families. You will be required to monitor and review the integrated systems and framework to ensure the needs identified through the CAF process can be addressed. As Thanet will benefit from extra resources to address the high level of need, you will also be able to develop the process to promote family assessments through the 'Think Family' pilot. This post will be based at Clover House, Whitstable and will involve travelling to Thanet for meetings. This post is subject to an Enhanced Disclosure Application to the Criminal

Records Bureau. Previous applicants need not apply. To apply, visit www.kent.gov.uk/jobs Alternatively, please email recruitment.line@kent.gov.uk or call 0845 8247 904. Please quote reference number CFE/09/0421. Closing date: Midday 5th October 2009. Interviews are expected to take place on the afternoons of 13th & 14th October 2009.

**To apply/more information:**  
Kent County Council  
Quoting Job Ref: CFE/09/0421  
Tel: 0845 8247 904  
Email recruitment.line@kent.gov.uk

#### Project Officer - Margate Drop-In

**Margate**  
Salary: £20791 pro rata  
Closing Date: 30/10/09  
Margate Drop-In Centre - Project Officer Margate Drop-In Centre is a welcoming safe place run by learning disabled people for people with disabilities. To meet friends, get information and advice to help with living in the community. We are looking for a competent self motivated person to work alongside

people with a learning disability on a project to review the Margate Drop In Centre. In this role you will be required to develop, lead and support the drop in committee to redefine the future purpose and model for the Drop In. Facilitate meetings, create and develop plans and other supporting material presenting these in a variety of appropriate formats. Excellent communication and networking skills are required along with a good understanding of the national legislation for people with a learning disability. Although the post holder will be employed by East Kent Mencap they will work directly to the Drop In committee, with input from other stakeholders. Being holders of the Positive about Disabled People award, disabled applicants who meet the minimum criteria will be offered an interview in every circumstance. Applications must be via application form. For further information or to request an application form please contact: Lynda

#### Finding staff

**24-7**

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Salisbury - Office Co-ordinator on 01843-224482 Interviews for this post will be held on 20th November 2009. Salary: £20,791 pro rata Hours: 22 hours per week (Monday, Wednesday and Thursday) Duration: 6 Months Location: Margate Drop-In Centre Closing Date for applications: 30th October 2009. This post is subject to an Enhanced Disclosure Application to the Criminal records Bureau.

**To apply/more information:**  
Lynda Salisbury  
East Kent Mencap  
Quoting Job Ref: DPO0001  
Tel: 01843-224482  
Email Lynda.Salisbury@eastkentmencap.co.uk

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## PUBLIC NOTICES

### KENT COUNTY COUNCIL THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004 APPROVED PREMISES FOR CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

An application has been made to Kent County Council to grant an approval for the following premises to act as a venue for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-  
Name of Premises: **Westerham Golf Club, Valence Park, Brasted Road, Westerham**  
Applicant: **Robert Sturgeon**  
The application and plan of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the grant of an approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.

Giles Adey  
Head of Registration  
1st Floor, Invicta House,  
Maidstone, ME14 1XX



### TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

#### TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACTS – NOTICES OF APPLICATIONS

The following applications have been submitted to the Council and are being advertised for the reason(s) given in each case.

TM/09/01878/FL – Land Adjoining The Pavilion Known As Drayhorse Meadow Fields Lane Wateringbury Maidstone Kent – Mrs Anne Medhurst is applying for Retrospective Application: Change of use to residential, stationing of five mobile homes and one touring caravan. Reason: DEPART

TM/09/02066/LB – 2 Police Station Road West Malling Kent ME19 6LL – Ms Marina Nicol is applying for Listed Building Application: Create an en suite bathroom. Reason: LB CA

TM/09/02183/FL – Snodland Medical Practice Catts Alley Snodland Kent ME6 5SN – Snodland Town Council are applying for three new one bedroom retirement bungalows. Reason: PROW

TM/09/02274/LB – 100 High Street West Malling Kent ME19 6NE – The Five Pointed Star are applying for Listed Building Application: Repairs to timber framework within loftspace plus associated works to reform brickwork above first floor window head to eaves. The introduction of a timber support post at ground floor level. Repairs to external boundary wall within car park. Localised remedial repairs to party wall and cellar. Reason: LB CA

TM/09/02049/FL – Ivanhoe London Road Addington West Malling Kent ME19 5AL. Mr Chris Richardson is applying for change of use of land to residential curtilage and the creation of a turning circle with a central planted island. Reason: DEPART

TM/09/01395/LB – Orchard Oast 279 Broadwater Road West Malling Kent ME19 6HT – Mr A Clapp is applying for Listed Building Application: Increase the sizes of an existing window and an existing door. Reason: CA LB

#### Reasons for the case being publicised:

LB Application relates to/affects a Listed Building or its setting  
CA Application is within/affects a Conservation Area  
DEPART Application does not accord with the Development Plan  
HH Householder application - As this is a householder application, in the event of an appeal against a refusal of planning permission, which is to be dealt with on the basis of representations in writing, any representations made about this application will be sent to the Secretary of State, and there will be no further opportunity to comment at appeal stage.

These applications are displayed on our website [www.tmbc.gov.uk](http://www.tmbc.gov.uk) – click on the button “Online Planning” (then View Existing Applications and select Public Access). You can submit your comments by emailing to [planning.applications@tmbc.gov.uk](mailto:planning.applications@tmbc.gov.uk) (please quote the application number by the date set out below). Please note that we will publish a copy of any representations received on the Council’s website, including your name and address.

Copies of applications listed may be seen during office hours (8.30 am and 5.00 pm Monday to Friday). Any applications within Hadlow, Hildenborough and Tonbridge are available at Tonbridge Castle, Tonbridge. Other applications are available at the office of the Director of Planning, Transport & Leisure, Gibson Building, Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4LZ. Any representations should be made in writing quoting the application number by 25 October 2009

David Hughes  
Chief Executive

4 October 2009





HIGHWAYS - District of Ashford

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL  
(CHURCH ROAD, SEVINGTON) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because of essential carriageway repairs, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting traffic on Church Road, Sevington from outside house number 36 to the end of the cul-de-sac, on or after 7 October 2009 for an estimated period of one day or until the works are complete.

There is no alternative route as the road is a cul-de-sac. Every effort will be made to allow access when safe to do so.

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL  
(ALBERT ROAD, ASHFORD) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because of essential carriageway repairs, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting traffic on Albert Road, Ashford, between the junctions with the A2042 Canterbury Road and Wall Road, on or after 6 October 2009, for an estimated period of one day or until the works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via Queens Road, Wall Road and Albert Road.

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL  
(POPE STREET, GODMERSHAM) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because of essential carriageway repairs, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting traffic on Pope Street, Godmersham from the junction with the A28 Ashford Road to Woodsdale Farm, on or after 6 October 2009, for an estimated period of up to two days or until the works are complete.

There is no alternative route as the road is a cul-de-sac. Every effort will be made to allow access for residents and local businesses but delays should be expected.

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL  
(COURT LODGE ROAD, APPLEDORE) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because of highway verge repairs, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting traffic on Court Lodge Road, Appledore, between The Quillet and Asparagus Farm, on or after 24 October 2009, for an estimated period of one day or until the works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via Ferry Road (also known as Appledore Road), Tenterden Road and The Street.

HIGHWAYS - District of Canterbury

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL  
(ARKLEY ROAD, HERNE BAY) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because Footway Works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting traffic on Arkley Road, Herne Bay from Spenser Road to Stanley Road on or after 19 October 2009 for an estimated period of two weeks or until such works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via Spenser Road, B2205 Canterbury Road and Kings Road.

This order will come into force on Monday 19 October 2009 and will be in operation when the appropriate signs are erected and will remain valid for a period of eighteen months. The order will allow the above mentioned restrictions to be implemented as and when required for works of a similar nature at any time for the duration of the order.

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL  
(SEA VIEW ROAD, HERNE BAY) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because installation of wastewater pipeline works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Sea View Road, Herne Bay, as described in the Schedule to this order from 19 October 2009 for an estimated period of 11 weeks or until the works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic will be as shown in the schedule.

Phase 1

Specified Road	Programmed Dates	Alternative Route
Sea View Road closed from the junction with Reculver Road to Beltinge Road	19 October 2009 for 8 weeks	Southbound traffic via Beltinge Road and Cliff Avenue Northbound traffic via Reculver Road, Grange Road and Landon Road

Phase 2

Specified Road	Programmed Dates	Alternative Route
Sea View Road closed from the junction with Beltinge Road to Alma Road	30 November for 3 weeks	Beltinge Road, Beacon Avenue and Alma Road

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL  
(VARIOUS ROADS CANTERBURY & HERNE BAY) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because carriageway repair works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Various Roads Canterbury & Herne Bay, as described in the Schedule to this order from 19 October 2009 onwards.

The alternative route for through traffic will be as shown in column 3 of the Schedule.

Schedule

Specified Road	Programmed Dates	Alternative Route
Gorse Lane, Herne and Broomfield – The Whole Length	19 October 2009 for 2 days	Hunters Forstal Road, Mill Lane and Broomfield Road
Link Road, Tyler Hill, Canterbury – The Whole Length	20 October 2009 for 1 day	Hackington Road, Wood Hill and Calais Hill
Manwood Avenue, Canterbury from the junction with Hales Drive to The Crescent	21 October 2009 for 1 day	The Terrace, Tenterden Drive, Downs Road and St Stephens Hill
Hudson Road and Military Road, Canterbury from the junction with Brymore Road to City Council Offices entrance in Military Road	22 October 2009 for 2 days	Brymore Road, Sturry Road, Tourtel Road and Military Road
Teddington Close and Regency Place closed at their junctions with Hudson Road and Military Road	22 October 2009 for 2 days	No diversion route. Restricted access as and when notified

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL  
(A2990 THANET WAY GREENHILL, HERNE BAY) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because inspection of footbridge works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on A2990 Thanet Way Greenhill, Herne Bay between Greenhill Roundabout and Flamings Drive on 24 October 2009 and 1 November 2009 or until the works are complete.

The road will be closed between the hours of 7:30pm to 6:30am.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via Canterbury Road, High Street, Avenue Road, Sea Street and Greenhill Bridge Road

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Dartford

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL  
(VARIOUS ROADS, DARTFORD) (TEMPORARY RESTRICTION TRAFFIC ORDER) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order introducing traffic movement restrictions as noted in schedule 1.

The Order will become effective on 5th October 2009, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last 4 weeks or until the works are completed. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate works for mains replacement for Southern Gas Networks, Thames Water and Highway maintenance for Kent Highway Services.

Schedule

The Affected Routes	The Temporary Restriction
West Hill, Dartford	One way traffic flow eastbound from Shepherds Lane to Highfield Road North
Highfield Road, Dartford	Two way traffic between InstoneRoad and West Hill, with NO access to West Hill
Highfield Road North, Dartford	One way traffic flow from West Hill to Westgate Road eastbound
Westgate Road, Dartford	One way traffic flow between Highfield Road North and Kent Road eastbound
Shepherds Lane, Dartford	No right turn from Dartford Road
Spital Street, Dartford	Two way traffic between Kent Road and West Hill, No access to West Hill

Westbound traffic using Westgate Road to access West Hill will be sent via: Lowfield Street, Princes Road, and Shepherds Lane.

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL  
(STATION ROAD ROUNDABOUT JUNCTION HALL ROAD, SOUTHFLEET) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic at Roundabout, Southfleet at junctions with New Barn Road, Station Road, Hall Road and the on/off slip for the A2.

The Order will become effective on 19th October 2009, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last 2 nights between the 20:00 – 05:00hrs. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the route described above will be via the attached schedule 1.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate thin surfacing scheme.

Schedule 1

	Date	Diversion
For Longfield	19th October for 2 nights 20:00 – 05:00 hours	Access off of the A2 – Exit the A2 at the Bluewater exit, Bean Road, Watling Street, Princes Road, Green Street Green Road and Main Road
For Northfleet	19th October for 2 nights 20:00 – 05:00 hours	Access off of the A2 – Exit the A2 Bluewater exit, Bean Road, Watling Street then exit the A2 for Northfleet
Station Road	19th October for 2 nights 20:00 – 05:00 hours	Green Street Green Road, Main Road, Longfield Road, A227 Wrotham Road and the A2

New Barn Road	19th October for 2 nights 20:00 – 05:00 hours	Main Road, Longfield Road, A227 Wrotham Road and the A2
Hall Road	19th October for 2 nights 20:00 – 05:00 hours	A2 exit at the Gravesend East (travelling coast bound) use the junction to travel London Bound on the A2, exit A2 Ebbsfleet and Park Corner Road

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL  
(VARIOUS ROADS, DARTFORD) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic various roads Dartford as noted in schedule 1.

The Order will become effective on 21st October 2009, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last as noted in the schedule. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative routes for the routes described above will be via: as the attached schedule.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate resurfacing works.

Schedule 1

Road Name	Extent	Dates	Diversion
East Hill, Dartford	From its junction with Home Gardens to its junction with Park Road	21st October 2009 for 5 nights between 1900 - 0500	Overty Liberty, Market Street, Lowfield Street, Princes Road and Park Road for east bound traffic. Then its Park Road, Princes Road, Lowfield Street, Instone Road, Highfield Road, Westgate Road and Home Gardens for west bound traffic.
Southfleet Road, Bean	From its junction with School Lane to its junction Sandbanks Hill	19th November 2009 for 4 days between 0900 - 1500	Southfleet Road, Sandbanks Hill, Green Street Green Road, A2, Bean Lane and the High Street
New Barn Road, Longfield	From its junction with Pecot Avenue to its junction with Longfield Avenue	11th December 2009 for 5 nights between 1900 - 0500	New Barn Road, A2, A227, Longfield Road and Main Road.

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL  
(B255 ST. CLEMENTS WAY AND BLUEWATER ACCESS ROAD, SWANSCOMBE) (TOUCAN CROSSINGS) ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

Notice is hereby given that the Kent County Council, in exercise of its powers under section 23 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act, 1984 and all other enabling powers, intends to install two new Toucan Crossings on B255, St Clements Way and the new Bluewater Access Road, Dartford.

The crossing on B255 St Clements Way is located on the western side of the carriageway approximately 15.0 metres and the eastern side of the carriageway approximately 27.0 metres north east of the mid point of its junction with Mounts Road; whilst the crossing on the Bluewater Access Road is located on the northern side of the carriageway approximately 125.0 metres and on the southern side of the carriageway approximately 130.0 metres south west of the mid point of its roundabout junction with the B255 Bean Road.

Copies of the plan showing this proposal can be inspected during normal working hours at the Kent County Council Offices, Invicta House, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XQ, Swanscombe and Greenhithe Town Council Offices, The Grove, Swanscombe Kent, DA1 oGA and at Dartford Borough Council Offices, Home Gardens, Dartford, Kent DA1 1DR.

HIGHWAYS - District of Dover

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL  
(CAULDHAM LANE, CAPEL-LE-FERNE) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because gas mains replacement works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting traffic on Cauldham Lane, Capel-Le-Ferne from the junction with Hurst Lane to the junction with Cauldham Close on or after 5 October 2009 for an estimated period of 4 weeks or until such works are complete. The Order will remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via Hurst Lane and Capel Street.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL  
(UNION ROAD, DEAL) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BYTHE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because new electrical sub station cable works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting traffic on Union Road, Deal from the junction with High Street to the junction with West Street on or after 19 October 2009 for an estimated period of 8 working days or until such works are complete. The Order will remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via High Street, St Georges Road and West Street.





HIGHWAYS - Borough of Gravesham

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL  
JUBILEE CRESCENT, GRAVESEND (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC)  
TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS  
AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on Jubilee Crescent, Gravesend outside and opposite the property 103.

The Order will become effective on 19th October 2009, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last 7 days. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the route described above will be via: Hampton Crescent, Silver Road and Jubilee Crescent.  
The purpose of the closure is to facilitate installation of a new electrical supply.

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL  
KINGS DRIVE AND CENTRAL AVENUE, GRAVESEND (TEMPORARY  
PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC  
REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY  
RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on the corner of Kings Drive and Central Avenue, Gravesend.

The Order will become effective on 19th October 2009, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to commence 25th October 2009 and last 10 days. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the route described above will be via: Central Avenue, Elm Road and Oak Road.  
The purpose of the closure is to facilitate connection of dwellings to a sewer main.

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL  
SOLE STREET, COBHAM (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC)  
TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS  
AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on the Sole Street, Cobham between The Railway Inn Public House and Manor Road.

The Order will become effective on 19th October 2009, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to commence 26th October 2009 and last 5 days. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the route described above will be via: Camer Road, Green Lane, A227 Wrotham Road, A2 Watling Street, Henhurst Road and Jeskyns Road.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate removal of white line system and reinstate new hazard line and road hatching.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Maidstone

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL  
(AMBER LANE, CHART SUTTON) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY  
ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE  
ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Amber Lane, Chart Sutton from Orchard Cottages to Cobfields on or after Monday 19th October 2009 for a period of up to 2 weeks or until such works are completed.

The alternative route for the above restriction is for westbound traffic via Chart Corner, Plough Wents Road, Brishing Road, Amber Lane and for eastbound traffic vice versa.

EDF Energy apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works, which are necessary to provide a new electrical supply. Should you require any further information regarding these works, their contact is Scott Davis of Amber Langis Limited on 01474 573831.

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL  
(BLIND LANE, BREDHURST) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER  
2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD  
TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Blind Lane, Bredhurst across the junction with Forge Lane on or after Monday 19th October 2009 for a period of up to 1 week or until such works are completed.

There is no alternative route but access will be available.

Kent Highway Services apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works, which are necessary to repair a broken gully lead and ancillary pipe work. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact is Alan Baldock on 08458 247 800.

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL  
(HAM LANE, LENHAM) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009  
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD  
TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Ham Lane, Lenham between the junctions of Beacon Road and Old Ham Lane on or after Monday 19th October 2009 for a period of up to 1 week or until such works are completed.

The alternative route for the route described above is for westbound traffic via High Street, Maidstone Road, A20 Ashford Road, Ham Lane and eastbound vice versa.

Kent Highway Services apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works, which are necessary to repair a broken gully lead and ancillary pipe work. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact is Alan Baldock on 08458 247 800.

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL  
(HEATH ROAD, COXHEATH) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER  
2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD  
TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Heath Road, Coxheath on or after Sunday 25th October 2009 for a period of up to 1 day or until such works are completed.

The alternative route for the above restriction is eastbound traffic via B2163 Ewell Lane, B2010 Lower Road, Dean Street, Farleigh Hill, Tovil Hill, Tovil Road, College Road, A229 Mill Street, Palace Avenue, Lower Stone Street, Upper Stone Street, Loose Road, Linton Road and for westbound traffic vice versa (except use Sheals Crescent and Hayle Road due to one way system) then back onto College Road, Tovil Road etc.

Kent Highway Services apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works, which are necessary for modifications to be made to existing traffic calming scheme. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact is Julian Cook on 08458 247 800.

HIGHWAYS - District of Sevenoaks

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL  
LOMBARD STREET, HORTON KIRBY (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC)  
TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS  
AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on Lombard Street, Horton Kirby to approx opposite property Carinya.

The Order will become effective on 5th October 2009, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last 8 weeks. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Rays Hill, The Street and Bull Hill

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate installation of new electricity mains cable.

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL  
HIGH STREET, SEVENOAKS (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC)  
TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS  
AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on High Street, Sevenoaks between its junctions with Rockdale Road and Solefields Road.

The Order will become effective on 5th October 2009, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last 6 nights from 20:00 – 05:00hrs. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: A224 London Road, Tubs Hill, London Road, Amherst Hill, A25 Workshops Hill, Westerham Road, A21 Sevenoaks ByPass, A225 Riverhill and Tonbridge Road

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate resurfacing works.

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL  
VARIOUS ROADS, SEVENOAKS (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC)  
TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS  
AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on various roads in Sevenoaks as attached schedule 1.

The Order will become effective on 5th October 2009, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative routes for the routes described above will be via: As the per attached schedule

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate resurfacing works

Schedule 1

Road Name	Extent	Diversion
Birchwood Road, Swanley	From its junction with Alfian Lane to its junction with B2173 Maidstone Road	Birchwood Road, Leyton Cross Road, Oakfield Lane, A2018 Old Bexley Lane / Dartford Road / Vicatage Road, A223 North Cray Road, B2173 Maidstone Road
Clinton Lane, Hever	From its junction with Four Elms Road to its junction with Five Fields Lane	B2027 Clinton Lane / Penshurst Road, B2176 Moorden Lane / Station Hill / Penshurst Road, B2188 Fordcombe Road / New Road / Saints Hill / Spring Hill / Fordcombe Road, A264 Ashurst Road, B2026 Hartfield Road / Mill Hill / High Street / Station Road, B2027 Four Elms Road
Penshurst Road, Penshurst	From its junction with Fordcombe Road to its junction with Station Hill	B2176 Station Hill / Moorden Lane, B2027 Penshurst Road / High Street / Hildenborough Road / Rings Hill / Stocks Green Road / Leigh Road, B245 Tonbridge Road / London Road, A227 High Street, B2260 Railway Approach, A26 Quarry Hill Road / London Road, B2176 Bidborough Ridge / Penshurst Road / Rogues Hill
Hosey Common Road, Westerham	From its junction with A25 to its junction with B269	B269 Kent Hatch Road, A25 Westerham Road / High Street / Market Square / Vicarage Hill
Hildenborough Road, Leigh	From its junction with Watt's Cross Road to its junction with Powder Mill Lane	B2027 Stocks Green Road / Leigh Road, B245 Tonbridge Road / London Road, A227 High Street, B2260 Railway Approach, A26 Quarry Hill Road / London Road, B2176 Bidborough Ridge / Penshurst Road / Rogues Hill / Penshurst Road / Station Hill / Moorden Lane, B2027 Penshurst Road / High Street

Mill Hill, Edenbridge	From its junction with B2028 Marsh Green Road to its junction with Victoria Road	B2026 High Street / Station Road, B2027 Four Elms Road / Clinton Lane / Penshurst Road, B2176 Moorden Lane / Station Hill / Penshurst road, B2188 Fordcombe Road / New Road / Saints Hill / Spring Hill / Fordcombe Road, A264 Ashurst Road, B2026 Hartfield Road
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KENT COUNTY COUNCIL  
CHURCH ROAD, HARTLEY (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC)  
TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS  
AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on Church Road, Hartley outside Bonsalls.

The Order will become effective on 5th October 2009, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last 12 days. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Ash Road, North Ash Road, Hartley Bottom Road, Hartley Hill.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate sewer repair works on behalf of Thames Water.

HIGHWAYS - District of Shepway

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL  
(THE LEAS, FOLKESTONE) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER  
2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD  
TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because Carriageway Surfacing Works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting traffic on The Leas, Folkestone from its junction with Road of Remembrance to its junction with Langhorne Gardens on 5 October 2009 for an estimated period of Two nights or until such works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via West Terrace, Bouverie Place, Bouverie Road West, Castle Hill Avenue and Langhorne Gardens.

This order will come into force on Monday 5 October 2009 and will be in operation when the appropriate signs are erected and will remain valid for a period of eighteen months. The order will allow the above mentioned restrictions to be implemented as and when required for works of a similar nature at any time for the duration of the order.

HIGHWAYS - District of Swale

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL  
(CHURCH HILL, HERNHILL) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER  
2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD  
TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because gully cleaning works need to be carried out, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting traffic on Church Hill, from its junction with Staple Street, northwards for 100 meters on or after 11 October 2009 for an estimated period of 1 day or until such works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via Staplestreet Road, Dawes Road, Thread Lane, Crockham Lane, Kays Lane, Kemsdale Road and Staple Street.

HIGHWAYS - District of Thanet

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL  
(PARK LANE, MARGATE) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER  
2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD  
TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because drainage repair works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting traffic on Park Lane, Margate from outside No 6 and No 6A Dane Park Villas on or after 5 October 2009 for an estimated period of 5 days or until such works are complete. The Order will remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via Dane Park Road, Danesmead Terrace and Dane Road.

HIGHWAYS - District of Tonbridge & Malling

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL  
(POLICE STATION ROAD, WEST MALLING) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC)  
TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS  
AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Police Station Road, West Malling on or after Monday 19th October 2009 for a period of up to 10 days or until such works are completed.

There is no alternative route for the route described above.

Kent Highway Services apologise for any inconvenience caused by these works, which are necessary for essential carriageway resurfacing works. Should you require any further information the Kent Highway Services contact is Robert Seggie on 08458 247 800.

HIGHWAYS - District of Tunbridge Wells

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL  
(CORNFORD LANE, TUNBRIDGE WELLS) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC)  
TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS  
AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Cornford Lane on or after Tuesday 20th October 2009 for a period of up to 2 days or until such works are completed.

The alternative route for the route described above is for eastbound traffic via Halls Hole Road, A264 Pembury Road, High Street, Cornford Lane and for westbound traffic vice versa.

BT Openreach apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works, which are necessary for replacing a telegraph pole and cabling works in the area. Should you require any further information about these works, their contact is Stuart Lane of McNicholas Construction on 01273 494659.

For further information, please contact Kent Highway Services,  
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By **STEVE LOADER**

**WHAT'S** the connection between Peugeot's new 3008 and a glider?

Answer: a long piece of cable. The French marque used the press launch of its all-new 3008 to show its off-tarmac powers by lobbing a glider into the air.

The 3008 is billed as a 'crossover', confusing industry-speak for a car crossing several market sectors, or one comfortable on or, up to a point, off-road.

The 3008 is definitely an excellent 'niche-buster' – to use more industry jargon – with estate car, MPV and SUV (sports utility vehicle) overtones in looks and functions.

But there is no current 4x4 option so there was the risk on arrival in showrooms later this month of looking rather effete against its rival segment breaker, the Nissan Qashqai (see later road test), which sells mostly with front-wheel drive yet can be bought with an extra transmission if needed.

Peugeot hopes to have a diesel-electric 3008 available in a year or so that should satisfy 4x4 'must haves' thanks to a light-weight electric transmission for the rear wheels.

For now, 3008 buyers craving extra traction when towing or in dodgy conditions can specify Grip Control – £450 and available on all versions – an advanced traction control system allied to special mud and snow tyres that mimics the powers of a modest 4x4 or 'soft roader'.

The driver is offered five settings, including snow, off-road (mud, dirt or wet grass) and sand. It sounds a bit hopeful on paper though, so Peugeot came up with the glider stunt (see video on Motors TV at [www.carsforkent.co.uk](http://www.carsforkent.co.uk)).

Instead of the usual stationary 340bhp 7.2-litre V8 'beast' of a winch machine, a

## New Peugeot launch is no flight of fancy



Peugeot's 3008 comes with Grip Control

comparatively modest 3008 150bhp 1.6-litre petrol model was hitched to the glider's launch cable and looped around a pulley attached to the V8 for stability rather than aid – the glider would have tried to lift the 3008 as it reached the point of cable release.

Without hesitation, the 3008 powered across the field and the glider launched as normal – impressive.

That sums up the 3008 generally too. Sitting physically and price-wise between the standard 308 hatchback and flagship 308SW estate cum MPV, it is just what Peugeot dealers demanded, we hear, to satisfy some existing customers and attract new ones.

Those on the sales front line have long been envious of the Picasso MPV line-up

from sister brand Citroën. The 3008 redresses the balance, but also raises the stakes yet further in positioning Peugeot upmarket of Citroën.

Not only does the 3008 look classy, wearing the brand's 'gaping maw' grille better than any model so far, but the interior sets new standards with a cockpit feel about the front seats and dashboard and optional fighter-plane style head-up display for the speedo and distance alert.

Load-carrying versatility is excellent with easily folded seats in the roomy rear compartment and a boot with three-position shelf.

Prices range from £15,995 to £21,895.



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# FIRST GEAR

Compiled by Steve Loader



## Mazda drives MPS hard

AFTER low-key promotion of its previous generation Mazda3 hot hatch, the Zoom-Zoom motor brand seems determined to go to the other extreme.

Not only has the latest Mazda3 MPS arrived for October, just months rather than years after the range was launched, but this impressive (0-62mph in 6.1 seconds) Ford Focus ST/VW Golf GTI basher is also being sold through specialist dealers.

Three current Mazda sites have taken up the option in Kent: Ashford Orbital; Bourne Road in Crayford; and Drake and Fletcher in Tunbridge Wells.

Each has an MPS demonstrator, two dedi-

cated MPS sales staff, an MPS-branded showroom area, a priority car ordering system and commitment to run MPS customer events – this also suggests that Mazda will follow up with more MPS versions of key models.

Mark Cameron, sales and marketing director at Dartford-based Mazda UK, said: "The all-new Mazda3 MPS (£21,500) is our fastest ever hatchback. This car delivers phenomenal levels of grip, superb steering accuracy and unrivalled 'fun-to-drive' motoring.

"We believe a more specialised approach is required to successfully market this amazing car and to exceed the expectations of both new and existing Mazda3 MPS customers."

## Cruiser delivers more of the same but better

LAUNCHING with a name suspiciously like the well-established Land Rover, Toyota's Land Cruiser has gone on to eclipse its one-time inspiration.

The British 4x4 brand arrived in 1948, and it was not until 1954 that Toyota coined the name for its go anywhere workhorse.

However, an all-new model due on sale from December 1 shows that little changes in the world of ultimate off-roaders; the rugged looks and what Toyota calls "core values of quality, durability and reliability" are largely carried over from the previous generation.

Offered exclusively as a five-door model with five or seven seats for UK customers, Toyota claims fans will, however, note improved off-road capabilities and on-board terrain controls.



Power comes from a 171bhp 3.0-litre D-4D diesel with five-speed auto box offering an average around 35mpg and 214g/km CO2 emissions – around five per cent better economy than on the current car.

## Ibiza 'tourer' follows hot hatches

SEAT has just launched the stunning FR hot hatch version of its sharply styled Ibiza, with more performance models to follow.

And it has also unveiled a crisp-looking Ibiza estate, yet avoids using that term since

the IBZ 'Concept' looks more like a sports tourer in the making – ideal for buyers needing extra space without sacrificing style.

This is one concept car already confirmed for production – expect it next year.



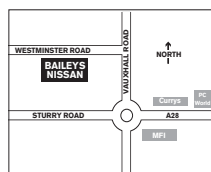
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**FirstDrive**by  
**STEVE LOADER****Kia Ceed**

RATHER like some Einsteinian phenomenon, Kia continues to bend time like no other manufacturer.

As I have remarked before, it seems only yesterday that I drove a previous generation Kia Rio (2001-05) and lamented its poor build, lack of refinement and, after filing the report, it breaking down on me.

But I must then have stepped onto some space-time accelerator, because I'm now saying the latest facelift to the Korean brand's Ford Focus challenger, the Ceed, represents another leap forward – just two years after the original was launched, for goodness sake.

And, as with all good facelifts, Kia has addressed the few flaws of the original and added something extra too.

The Ceed arrived in 2007, as if from a Stargate episode: it was an all-new model and name, designed and built in Europe to attack Europe's finest – the VW Golf, Ford Focus and Vauxhall Astra – and combined facets of them all.

There was one significant extra though: a mould-breaking seven-year warranty, four years better than the industry norm and the Ceed's main rivals and even two years better than that offered by Kia's partner brand, Hyundai.

It was just the kind of blandishment needed to get punters over the threshold to test the newcomer and, once in the showroom, the curious could then quickly become the committed.

At the launch of the 'New Ceed' last week,

# Kia steps up warp drive with stop-go



Kia people were only too happy to concede – no pun intended – that the mega-warranty was something of a gamble that could have gone expensively wrong if the design and engineering team had messed up.

But there have been no roadside dramas and no need to plan an escape from what is still an industry-leading pledge. Indeed, Kia has not only carried over the seven-year warranty, but decided it will offer a 'top-up' to seven years on used Ceed sold through Kia dealers – that's confidence.

Apart from the original car's reliability, it also impressed with the quality of the cabin

and general styling. It had just one flaw though and that has largely been put right; the Ceed could be a bit fidgety and the Golf, Astra and Focus were much the better drive.

But Kia put its foot on that time-shift accelerator here too, and worked wonders on the chassis that could have taken years to perfect.

As for new kit, Kia says the car has an upweighted interior, though this looked about the same as before to me – that's no criticism though.

There are also exterior cosmetics, notably a sleeker and more upmarket grille.

The real news though is an effective auto-

matic stop and go system that kills the engine when stopped at the lights or in heavy traffic and then smoothly re-starts it again.

Known as Intelligent Stop & Go (ISG) it is one of the best systems so far – yet more proof of Kia's time-bending advances – and offered on the car's junior 89bhp 1.6-litre diesel engine.

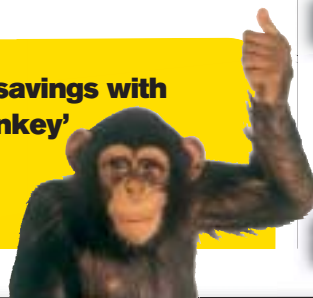
All versions with this engine, from the three-door Proceed model, through the five-door Ceed and on to the Ceed SW estate, come under a new green 'EcoDynamics' sub-branding with energy-saving tyres and qualifying for the minimum payable road tax of £35/year and priced from £13,895.

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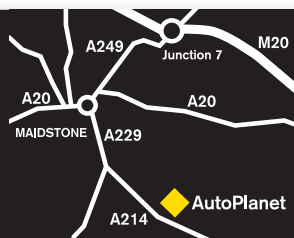
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07 57 FOCUS 1-6 STYLE AUTO PAS AIR/C PANTHER BLUE 15000 MILES .....	£8995
07 57 FOCUS 1-6 ZETEC 5DR AUTO PAS AIR/C ALLOYS BLACK 10000 MILES .....	£8995
07 57 FOCUS 16 ZETEC 3DR AUTO PAS AIR/C ALLOYS SEA GREY 13000 MILES .....	£8995
07 07 FOCUS 2-0 GHIA 5 DR AUTO PAS SEA GREY AIR 17000 MILES .....	£9995
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06 56 FORD FOCUS GHIA 1-6 AUTO PAS 5DR AIR/C TANGO RED 9000 MILES ....	£7995
06 56 FORD FOCUS GHIA AUTO PAS 5DR AIR/C SEA GREY 13000 MILES .....	£7995
06 56 FOCUS 1-6 GHIA AUTO PAS 4 DR ALLOYS TONIC BLUE 13000 MILES .....	£7995
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06 06 FOCUS 1-6 ZETEC CLIMATE ESTATE AUTO PAS AIR ALLOYS 11000MLS .....	£7495
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06 56 MONDEO 2-0 GHIA AUTO PAS 5DR SILVER METALLIC 23000 MILES .....	£9995
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06 56 MAZDA 6 TS AUTO PAS ALLOYS AIR/C 5DR SEA GREY 21000 MILES .....	£9495

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06 56 JIMNY J1X PLUS AUTO PAS LEATHER SEATS AIR/C 8000 MILES .....	£7995
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06 06 VW GOLF 1-6 SE 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR/C GREY METALLIC 10000 MILES .....	£10995
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05 55 VW POLO 1-4 S 5DR AUTO PAS SILVER JUST 10000 MILES .....	£6995
04 04 VW LUPO 1-4 E 3DR AUTO PAS SILVER JUST 4000 MILES .....	£5495
02 51 VW GOLF 1-6 SE AUTO PAS 5 DR SILVER 44000MILES .....	£4995

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08 08 ASTRA 1-8 CLUB AUTO PAS AIR/C 5DOOR STAR BLACK 6000 MILES .....	£8495
08 57 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS AIR/C 5 DOOR SILVER 11000 MILES .....	£7995
07 57 ASTRA 1-8 DESIGN AUTO PAS ESTATE METRO BLUE 14000 MILES .....	£8995
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07 57 ASTRA 1-8 DESIGN LIFE AUTO PAS AIR/C ESTATE MET GREY 7000 MILES .....	£8495
07 07 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS AIR/C 5 DOOR TURQUOISE 15000 MILES .....	£7495
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06 56 ASTRA 18 LIFE AUTO 5DR ESTATE PAS AIR PANNACOTTA 17000MILES .....	£6995
06 56 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO 5DR ESTATE PAS AIR STAR SILVER 8000 MILES .....	£6995
06 58 ASTRA 1-8 DESIGN AUTO PAS ALLOYS 5 DOOR SILVER 12000 MILES .....	£7995
06 58 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS 5 DR AIR/C RED METALLIC 19000 MILES .....	£6995
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06 06 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO 5DR ESTATE PAS AIR ULTRA BLUE 12000 MILES .....	£6495
06 06 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO 5DR ESTATE PAS AIR ULTRA BLUE 20000 MILES .....	£6495
06 06 ASTRA 1-8 CLUB AUTO 5DR ESTATE PAS AIR BLACK 12000 MILES .....	£6695
06 06 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS 5 DR AIR/C METRO BLUE 17000 MILES .....	£6495

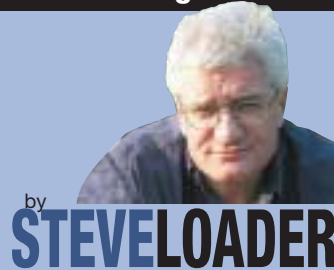
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**DrivingReview**

by  
**STEVE LOADER**

CHIEF DRIVING CORRESPONDENT  
steve.loader@kosmedia.co.uk

**Nissan Qashqai**

SNOOKER star Steve Davis' success made him a Spitting Images target in the 1980s when his cue sport dominated TV ratings.

With most fans preferring the flamboyance of players like Alex 'Hurricane' Higgins, the TV satire show countered with the label Steve 'Interesting' Davis to poke fun at the latter's low-key yet metronomic success.

Davis' motoring equivalent during the 1980s and until recently was 'Nice Nissan', a reputation finally blown away in 2007 by a car that sounds like an explosive sneeze – the Qashqai.

I've been driving the newest version, a Qashqai +2 n-tec. Translated from Qashqai-speak – for the name comes from a nomadic Iranian people – that means two extra seats in the back and lots of extra media 'tech'.

To accommodate the third row of seats the original five-seater has been rebuilt from windscreen pillar to tailgate, making the car longer and taller without affecting the



# Qashqai blows away 'Nice Nissan' label

Qashqai's bullish grace and then enhanced by a smarter grille on the +2.

But the quasi-4x4 or 'crossover' styling is only part of the reason why the Qashqai is Nissan's

most successful European launch ever and why – until the recession – we seemed to get weekly bulletins on increased production at the company's Sunderland UK plant.

The car's width of appeal is the other major factor; it was designed to sweep away three existing 'Nice' models – the Almera family hatch and its Tino MPV spin-off, plus the Primera family car.

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Official Government Environment Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (g/km). Cruze 1.8 LT: Urban – 30.4 (9.3), Extra-urban – 53.3 (5.3), Combined – 41.5 (6.8). CO<sub>2</sub> emissions 159g/km.

\*Price of £11,320 relates to Cruze 1.6 S model only. Vehicle shown Cruze 1.8 LT and metallic paint available at extra cost of £400. †Customers will receive 3 years road fund licence supplied as a discount on the purchase price of the vehicle at the time of purchase based on the current level of road fund licence. Chevrolet will have no further liability for any future increase in road fund licence. 3 years/30,000 miles Fixed Price Service Package worth £249. The savings are against current man. rec. price and available on UK supplied vehicles ordered and registered before 5th October 2009. Prices correct at time of press. At participating retailers only. Not available in conjunction with scrappage or any other offers. (Chev80068)





With the +2 it now also attacks Vauxhall's sector leading Zafira seven-seat mini-MPV and mounts a convincing argument, with far more visual impact and a huge load compartment with all rear seats fully folded.

A glassy and well designed cabin creates a good ambience and there is the option of a full-length glass roof too.

The Qashqai also mixes the level of stowage you would expect of an MPV – including a decent glovebox for items to be hidden from the light-fingered. Fixtures are of restrained quality, including alloy highlights.

However, don't take those two third row seats too seriously. They are comfy enough, but only children will never tire of sitting on them; there are better full seven-seaters around if that is your priority.

On the other hand, the middle three seats are versatile and the mid-seat folds down to function as a table and also has a 12v connection for the kids' DVD player or games console.

Where any Qashqai really loses most MPVs though is in the quality of the drive; for a high-riding vehicle, it is outstanding.

There is an option to upgrade to an all-wheel drive powertrain, but you really only need this for rural locations or frequently tricky conditions, as the Qashqai is sure-footed enough with front-wheel drive, clinging to bends tenaciously without heeling like most SUVs and MPVs, yet riding with great composure.

The best engine of those I have driven is the Renault-derived 100bhp 1.5-litre diesel as fitted to the test car, but while it should be the preferred choice for the five-seater, it is stretched too far by this err... stretched Qashqai +2.

Still, it is refined enough at cruising speed and underlines the Qashqai's impressive comfort levels.

Spec levels are also generous and Nissan has recently augmented the whole Qashqai line-up with a new mid/upper trim level known as n-tec, which brings an in-car comms package



of sat nav, full mobile phone connectivity and the 'Nissan Connect' sound system with USB/iPod link.

The package works exceptionally well and especially the colour reversing camera; with the Qashqai's inherent driving quality and refinement, it takes this smart yet versatile car into executive territory.



## DrivingPortfolio

**NISSAN QASHQAI +2 1.5DCI N-TEC**  
£20,200 (QASHQAI PRICES: £14,200-24,700)

Driving appeal	★★★★
Image	★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
How green	★★★★
Road tax	£150/year
Best rival	Peugeot 3008 (arrives this month)

## TheVerdict



### DON'T LIKE:

the lack of power from the 1.5-litre diesel option in the Qashqai +2 model.



### NOT SURE:

the third-row seats make Qashqai +2 a viable alternative to most seven-seat MPVs.



### REALLY LIKE:

the Qashqai's all-round appeal when driven solo or crammed with passengers and luggage.

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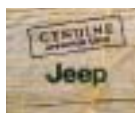
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Official government fuel consumption figures (mpg/litres per 100km) for the smart fortwo cdi: urban 83.1/3.4, extra urban 88.3/3.2, combined 85.6/3.3, CO2 emissions 88 g/km.

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\*Source: Independent Market Research Sagitta Consultancy 2006. \*\*Source: B E Stats June 2008.













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**CARDY**By **ANDY ROGERS**

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

KENT'S oldest fizzy drinks brand Silver Spring quickly regained its sparkle this week after slipping into administration a fortnight ago.

Acquisition by Privet Capital LLP has enabled the creation of a new vehicle, Silver Spring Soft Drinks Limited, and the saving of all 260 jobs and existing business operations including the UK's leading flavoured water brand, Perfectly Clear.

Mineral water has been a growth market in recent years – expanding faster than alcohol – but the Folkestone-based company faces some giants of the industry including the US Coca-Cola and PepsiCo groups and UK majors, R Whites and Britvic.

The first sign of problems for Silver Spring came in the summer when Deloitte LLP was called in to manage a two-month sale process, resulting in the company going into what is called pre-pack administration on September 16 and sold on this week. (See Alan Williams' column below for pre-pack explanation).

The new management team, led by chairman Jonathan Halford and MD Neill Cotton, insist the re-structured company is now well-placed to tackle a tough market.

"This deal represents the best possible future for the business," said Mr Cotton.

"This is a fresh start for Silver Spring after a

# Silver Spring jobs saved in pre-pack

## Administration deal has local brand fizzing again



THIRSTY WORK: Perfectly Clear production

number of difficult years under its previous ownership. The new investment brought to the business by Privet Capital, together with their experience investing in business turn-arounds, puts us in an excellent position to exploit many opportunities in the rapidly changing drinks market."

The company started making soft drinks at Foord Road, Folkestone, in 1870 when carbonated waters were all the rage.

Key to this early success was a spring in use since Roman times, which was naturally high in calcium. Coupled with Folkestone's popularity with health-conscious Victorians taking the bracing sea air, the firm's tonic waters were a huge hit, followed by a train of new products in the 20th century and mergers with fellow local beverage manufacturers,

including Harris of Hythe, Star of Thanet and Bing's of Canterbury. The growing company moved to Park Farm in 1970, where it also took the unprecedented step of making its own plastic bottles in 1982, radically reducing the amount of transportation needed to run the business and taking what would now be lauded as a major environmentally friendly move.

Privet Capital spokesman Steve Keating said: "We are thrilled to have the opportunity to invest in Silver Spring.

"We believe Perfectly Clear and the business's other brands, as well as the significant supermarket own-label business, will stand us in good stead to return to profitable growth.

"To this end, we have invested million in the business to fund improvements to working capital, equipment and brands."

LAST month one of Folkestone's oldest and best loved family firms – Silver Spring Mineral Water Company – was sold after a pre-packaged, or pre-pack, administration.

In June, Buss Murton, one of Tunbridge Wells' oldest law firms, was also sold after a pre-pack administration.

Silver Spring was sold to a London-based private equity house, Privet Capital. Buss Murton was sold to me and a senior colleague, neither of us having been an owner of the business prior to the administration.

A pre-pack involves a buyer being identified in advance of entering the formal administration procedure with the business, then sold immediately on entering this procedure. Such a move effectively enables the business to continue trading, freed from the liabilities that would have otherwise seen it collapse completely.

This has enabled Silver Spring to reportedly secure 260 jobs in Folkestone and at Buss Murton we were able to retain all 54 staff. As well as securing jobs, there are good reasons

**ALAN WILLIAMS**, senior partner for Tunbridge Wells law firm Buss Murton Law LLP, discusses what pre-pack administration is – as deployed by Silver Spring – and how the law firm itself is only too familiar with the process

to achieve a quick and seamless sale of a business entering into formal administration. Customers and suppliers often refuse to engage with a business being managed by administrators, further damaging and devaluing any profitable parts of that business. This will make any sale that much harder.

Some businesses are more at risk in this area as customers will simply go elsewhere. Silver Spring has a number of contracts to produce own-branded products for some of the UK's largest supermarkets, including Tesco, and this would have been very much in the minds of the administrators.

There are strict controls over administrators to ensure they get the best deal for the creditors. The Government strengthened these regulations this year after reports of businesses putting themselves into administration and

then being purchased by the original owners simply to avoid outstanding debts. It is by no means inevitable that a business sold through administration will be sold to the former owners or management of the company.

However, it is often the case that those who are prepared to place the highest value on the business are those who are already involved in it, as was the case here at Buss Murton.

The collapse of a business is often distressing for the owners and for those employed by it, not to mention those owed money who may as a result find themselves also in financial difficulty.

It can be difficult for suppliers to understand how and why they are not going to get paid, when the business for all intents and purposes, is the same business and often managed by the very same people.

However the key advantage of selling a business through administration is that it will continue, preserving jobs, completing unfinished work and providing suppliers with ongoing trade. In contrast, if the company were to collapse, all parties would inevitably lose out.

Understandably, suppliers may be uncomfortable about continuing to supply the new business. They will want assurances the business can afford to settle any newly incurred debt and will often seek more favourable terms, such as greatly reduced lines of credit or payment up front.

Pre-pack administration is a useful vehicle to rescue a profitable business on the verge of collapse for reasons over which it has no control.

Its popularity has increased during the recession and while the economy is showing signs of improvement, it will be some time before corporate insolvencies and pre-pack administrations slow down.

• Alan Williams can be reached by email: awilliams@bussmurton.co.uk



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# Free and easy – now all you need is hosting

**W**E'VE already looked at the difference between a 'brochure' website and one that has been designed using a blogging content management system such as WordPress.

Search engines – you won't need reminding – like fresh, relevant content and brochure sites don't easily offer that.

If you imagine the site as an online version of a business marketing brochure, then you'll know what I'm talking about. It sits online, looking good, but often doesn't drive any increase in business.

WordPress is a content management system originally designed to be used for blogs, but as you can use it to also set up static pages it can be used now to create a complete website.

And you can do this with or without a blog capability. So, how do you go about getting a WordPress website? Well, the good news is that WordPress is free; all you need is your hosting.

A word about the difference between [www.wordpress.com](http://www.wordpress.com) and [www.wordpress.org](http://www.wordpress.org). These two websites are both WordPress sites but you need to make sure that you use the right one for what you need.

The .com site allows you to easily set up a WordPress website, but it is held within their own website so that your url becomes something like [www.yoururl.wordpress.com](http://www.yoururl.wordpress.com), which doesn't sound very professional.

You have access to about 70 themes (designs) for your site but you can't add in

Small-business expert and online specialist  
**JO DODDS** concludes her look at how technology can boost your bottom line



**PLUG-IN:** Create a website with WordPress

plug-ins ('packets' of code you can use to get more functionality on your site). And if you decide to transfer the content at a later date to another site you will lose all the inbound links you have gained to your site, which, as you know, are really important.

So if you are going to install WordPress manually, you need to download it onto your computer from [www.wordpress.org](http://www.wordpress.org) and then get your own hosting and install it there.

A word about hosting. If you are aiming predominantly at a UK audience, which as local businesses many of you will be, you need to get your hosting from a UK supplier rather than a US-based one.

Once you have installed WordPress you

need to choose a theme, in other words, how your blog is going to look.

There are currently 982 free themes available at [www.wordpress.org](http://www.wordpress.org), so that should give you a few to choose from. The next step is to install relevant plug-ins – code that help your website do what it's supposed to.

They can do things such as stop spam comments, enable you to get an automatic back up of your site every day, link blog posts to other relevant blog posts on your site automatically and so on.

There are so many that you are spoiled for choice. A word of warning though; don't add too many plug-ins as that can affect performance and make your site slow to load.

If you would like to learn how to do this yourself, have a look at our website and join our mailing list.

We offer lots of free content aimed at helping local business owners to better market themselves online specifically using WordPress websites. We ran two 'webinars' on that subject a week or so ago and you can get access to them on the website.

**• Jo Dodds teaches, coaches and supports small-business owners to set up and market their own easy, cost-effective and search-engine-friendly websites. Check out [www.counterpoint-matters.com](http://www.counterpoint-matters.com) for free content and webinars about online marketing for small businesses.**

## MORTGAGE RATES

RT: Rate type R%: Rate percentage L: Loan U: Until  
OD: Other details

### FIXED

#### WOOLWICH

RT: FIXED R%: 3.99% L: 70% U: 31/01/2012  
OD: £1,329

#### MORTGAGE BOX ITL

RT: FIXED R%: 4.89% L: 75% U: 31/03/2011  
OD: £1,184

#### MARSDEN

RT: FIXED R%: 5.19% L: 70% U: 30/11/2011  
OD: £1,123

#### ABBEY

RT: FIXED R%: 3.99% L: 70% U: 02/01/2012  
OD: £1,030

#### OTHER

#### ABBEY

RT: TRACKER R%: 2.99% L: 70% U: 3 YEARS  
OD: £1,030

#### DARLINGTON

RT: DISCOUNTED VARIABLE R%: 3.15% L: 70%  
U: 30/11/2011 OD: £1,320

#### MARSDEN

RT: DISCOUNTED VARIABLE R%: 3.09% L: 75%  
U: 30/11/2011 OD: £1,123

#### ALLIANCE & LEICESTER

RT: TRACKER R%: 3.09% L: 70% U: 2 YEARS  
OD: £1,305

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BUA	£33.96

### COUPLE AGED 35

FRIENDS PROVIDENT	£62.86
ZURICH	£63.52
AXA	£63.71
SCOT PROVIDENT	£64.48
AXA	£65.86

### COUPLE AGED 30

AXA	£43.19
FRIENDS PROVIDENT	£43.30
AXA	£43.69
SCOT PROVIDENT	£45.06
ZURICH	£45.47

### COUPLE AGED 40

FRIENDS PROVIDENT	£95.51
ZURICH	£96.88
SCOT PROVIDENT	£99.71
BRIGHT GREY	£106.72
AXA	£118.27

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## Over-50s and the new raised ISA allowance

IF YOU are an ISA investor, be it cash or stocks and shares, it cannot have escaped your notice that there are new higher allowances for anyone over 50 from this month.

From Tuesday, October 6, the ISA subscription limit will increase to £10,200 for



By **LIZ RULE**  
Pharon Independent  
Financial Advisers Ltd

anyone eligible to invest in an ISA who was born on or before April 5, 1960 (that is, who will be aged 50 or over during the current tax year).

Some of you affected by this change may have been postponing your ISA investment until October for this reason.

Up to £5,100 of the new ISA allowance can be saved in a cash ISA with one provider. The remainder of the £10,200 can be invested in a stocks and shares ISA with either the same or another provider.

Alternatively, the full £10,200 can be invested in a stocks and shares ISA with one provider.

These higher limits will apply to all eligible ISA investors with effect from April 6, 2010. It is a commercial decision for ISA providers on whether they decide to allow eligible customers to subscribe up to the higher ISA limits from October 6, 2009.

Initial research suggests that not all providers are intending to allow top-ups due

to the extra administration and system changes that would be required – particularly as further changes are required from April 6, 2010, when the higher ISA limit of £10,200 takes effect for everyone over 18 (16 and 17 year olds can do a cash ISA of up to £5,100 from April 6, 2010).

I recommend that if you now intend to use the new higher allowances in a stocks and shares ISA you check to see if your provider is accepting more money now, or better still ask your adviser to do this for you.

There is the possibility that if they aren't, you could contribute the extra to a cash ISA and then transfer the balance to stocks and shares later on.

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# Mandy rides to the rescue

KENT car dealers had their prayers answered this week when the Government used the Labour Party conference to announce more Scrappage grants.

The scheme, which offers £2,000 towards a new car in part exchange for scrapping a car at least 10 years old, has helped prop up demand for new cars since launching in May.

Nevertheless, new registrations are still a fifth down on 2008 and the original £300 million cash injection from the Treasury has been running out fast.

It had been expected to last until next March, but pent-up demand, consumers' desire to downsize to more economical and eco-friendly cars, plus generous top-ups from manufacturers keen to 'move metal' prompted a stampede by some 200,000 buyers.

## Perfection

Industry watchers calculated that the coffers would empty sometime this month, prompting predictions that car sales would "fall off a cliff" unless the Government pumped in more cash.

Timing his announcement to perfection, Business Secretary Lord Mandelson said that half as much again would be injected into the fund.

However, many industry observers say the Government and taxpayer have not exactly lost out on the deal: 15 per cent of the Treasury half of each £2,000 grant comes back in VAT and the whole deal is also subject to a 15 per



**ECONOMIC TRACTION:** Lord Mandelson's extension of Scrappage grants for replacing old cars with new models has been greeted with relief by many in the industry

cent rake-off that is set to return to 17.5 per cent shortly.

And though the trade has sold more new cars, the lack of sales in past years has caught up with the supply of used cars – often more profitable than new deals.

As a result, used car values rocketed this year, exacerbated by the numbers of servicea-

ble 10-year-old cars going to the crusher under the Government scheme.

Caffyns Tunbridge Wells general sales manager Andy Kitney said: "It has taken a load of used cars out of the market, meaning traders and customers for those have had to trade up."

"That has knocked on, so we have more people competing at auction for stock we would

## COMMENT

IN THE same way that the Government toyed with the motor industry and dealers ahead of announcing the Scrappage plan in the April Budget, so it has used news of the extension to its own ends, writes *KOS Media motoring correspondent STEVE LOADER*.

Delaying the original launch, without denying Scrappage would ever happen, probably prevented many potential springtime deals as consumers looking to change cars decided to hang on for fear of missing the windfall.

Once the tap was turned on finally, the small print showed – much to the silent fury of the trade – that only half of the grant would be funded by the Treasury, with the balance coming from manufacturers and dealers.

Even closer inspection revealed the Government would claw back a lot of VAT cash anyway.

As if the original spin was not enough, the Government chose to exploit the fears about cash running out, knowing that it actually made financial sense to extend the scheme and then maximise PR by announcing it at the Labour Party conference.

buy and retail."

Maidstone Kia sales manager Charles Horswill said: "With VAT expected to rise from the current rate of 15 per cent, an extension to the Scrappage scheme will help soften the blow to customers and maintain momentum across the motor industry."

## Chapter well versed in unity as strength

IT LAUNCHED amid one of the worst recessions in a generation, but one networking group is standing as living proof there is power in a union.

Because the Ashford M20 Chapter of Business Network International (BNI) is going from strength to strength and seeing referrals rocket.

Staging breakfast events every Wednesday morning at the Conningbrook Hotel on the Canterbury Road in Ashford, the group is convinced it is putting the contacts in place to ensure when the belt loosens around the collective budget, members will be in place to boost their bottom line.

Member Mark Finch, of Dymchurch-based Ashe Alarms, joined up just prior to its launch in June.

He's convinced it's the way forward.

"We're all about breaking the cycle of doom and gloom," he said, in the week the group held a special open day in a bid to attract more members.

The organisation was born just three months ago but has quickly signed up more than 20 members.

"We threw open the doors this week and we're confident we'll get a lot more business-

es signing up. We have a wide range of professions represented already, from across the county.

"There are solicitors, plumbers, mortgage brokers, chartered accountants and plenty more. From big firms to little firms, we all can see the benefits of getting involved in this way.

"Things are difficult out there at the moment and everything helps.

"People want to buy from people. And this gives us all an opportunity to get to know each other, develop a trust, so if we need their service we'll turn to them to perform it.

"I must admit I went into it all a bit sceptical, but the benefits really are very strong."

It once again demonstrates the strength of face-to-face meetings in a world now so dominated by electronic forms of communication.

Recent reports have warned too much time spent liaising through the likes of Twitter and

Facebook is eroding traditional business relationship methods.

• **To find out more about the BNI Ashford M20 Chapter, visit [www.ashfordm20bni.co.uk](http://www.ashfordm20bni.co.uk). Or speak to Mark Finch direct on 0788 778 0727.**



**SEAL THE DEAL:** Personal contact helps promote trust and unity



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# It's a challenge, but mood

**CHRIS BRITCHER** speaks to experts in the field to gauge the health of the commercial property sector

GIVEN the stone-cold facts, you could be forgiven for thinking the commercial property market is a place of glum faces and furrowed brows.

And to a certain extent you'd be right. Transactions have slumped to levels not seen in decades; new builds have ground to a halt, and uncertainty in the market is playing havoc with the pundits' crystal balls.

But the picture is far from endless gloom and, most encouragingly, there is real light at the end of the tunnel. What's more, Kent is firmly sat in a comfy seat on a high-speed train hurtling towards a future of renewed prosperity. At least that's the plan.

Richard Turnill is head of agency at Cluttons. He's only too aware of how the uncertainty is making the market difficult to predict.

"We have a unit under offer at the moment which was supposed to be completed by the end of August," he explains.

"But it has dragged on because the finance has been difficult to obtain. Now my client – the vendor, made up of five directors – is



**IMPRESSIVE:** The 35,000 sq ft Herald office building recently completed at the Eureka Business Park in Ashford

turning around and saying, 'We've heard things are getting better. Perhaps we should withdraw from the sale altogether and sell it in the new year and make a few more quid for ourselves'.

"But, in reality, one in the hand in this situation is certainly worth two in the bush."

It's a good example of the dilemma everyone – from developers to agents to vendors – is experiencing right now. But the positive news is everyone is looking on the bright side.

Vaughan Hughes is director at Ashford-based Atrium Chartered Surveyors, a compa-

ny acting on behalf of some of the big developers such as Glenmore and PPG.

"It's been slow, obviously, and it's been harder to get deals done, but there has still been activity and we've been relatively busy over the summer," he explains.

"Transaction levels have dropped, but in the local markets we deal with there's still a reasonable level of activity and we hope that will improve in the coming months."

Unsurprisingly, he puts that movement down to incentives issued by developers to try to breathe new life into the market.

"There are reduced rents for the first year,

rent free periods – Glenmore is offering some good mortgage deals, for example – but most developers realise in a difficult environment they have to be competitive.

"We'll also see those reducing as people come back to the market, but it's still a good time to take property if you're buying or renting."

Richard Turnill from Cluttons agrees: "Now landlords fall into two categories. There's the type who want to bury their heads in the sand and ask, 'Recession, what recession?', and the ones who want to do a deal. And that number is growing."

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### Industrial unit Dartford

Swan Business Park, Sandpit Road  
Warehouse within M25 orbital  
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## In times of trouble

As cost margins become tighter and held property assets become more important, so disputes between Landlord and Tenant, and between property owners tend to increase in number. When parties can not agree to a settlement, the usual route is to appoint an arbitrator or instigate court proceedings. But this can be very costly, time consuming and with the real possibility that the end result is not to the satisfaction of either party.

As an alternative property related disputes can be resolved through mediation. Cluttons LLP in Maidstone is one of the first in the county to offer Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors accredited mediation services to resolve property disputes.

As the economic recession continues to bite, so more and more people are turning to mediation, which offers one of the fastest and most cost-effective routes to achieving settlement of a dispute. Mediation can still be used in conjunction with litigation and, under the Civil Procedure Rules, many courts now advocate that parties try to mediate a solution before going down the litigation route. With an exceptional mediator involved, going to Court really should be the last resort.

Property disputes can be wide ranging, from differences of opinion with regard to capital and rental values, to disputes relating to property boundaries, and contractual agreements. The benefit of mediation compared to the traditional legal processes, is that it can generally be undertaken quickly, is usually far cheaper than litigation and much less traumatic than having to attend court and give evidence. The parties retain control as the process is voluntary and confidential; and any settlement agreement reached is their decision and not imposed upon them".

Tony Meire at the Maidstone office is trained to facilitate the disagreeing parties to focus on the main issues and reach potential solutions. Although Tony is also a qualified arbitrator, he is increasingly advising and being asked to consider mediation prior to acting as an arbitrator or expert. "I am always happy to discuss what may be the best possible course of action with anyone seeking advice in relation to property related disputes, prior to them incurring any expense. I can let them know how mediation works and the general procedures followed. As well as private individuals, I am often contacted by solicitors and other property agents."

If you find yourself in trouble or in disagreement with any property related issue, Cluttons LLP are there to try and help. Just give them a call.

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# among experts is upbeat



**OPTIMISM:** Locate in Kent's Paul Wookey

But if it comes to having a positive outlook, Paul Wookey is a past master. The chief executive of Locate in Kent would, one imagines, bleed Kent if you cut him and probably rides to work on an Invicta white horse.

His organisation's aim to attract inward investment has not slowed during the difficult economic situation – and that, he believes, is why everyone has good reason to be optimistic about how the county's commercial property market emerges from the slump.

"We publish the annual Kent Property Market Report, which we work on with Kent County Council and Cluttons [published on October 16] and I've just been reading through some of the copy.

"In some cases, the Kent property market is showing some resilience against the downward trends elsewhere in the UK.

"I know the work we have done before and during the recession means Kent is now seen as a very good place to do business from a property investment point of view.

"On our website, we have a property portal



**WE'RE READY:** Kent has the infrastructure to emerge from recession with momentum

to allow companies to search across the county and the enquiries we are getting have been pretty good over the last 18 months or so. We know companies looking for space can find it across Kent, from north to east.

"Obviously there's a big differential in terms of rental value and therefore companies that are cost-driven can look at other areas.

"More and more are looking at east Kent due to improved transport links. From an east Kent perspective that is very positive."

The price difference between east and west remains considerable. An industrial unit at £4 per square foot in Folkestone – Cluttons

cites as an example – compares with about £8 in Aylesford or Dartford. The prices may have dipped across the board, but the scale of difference remains.

Interestingly, however, the biggest impact of the recession may be levelling the playing field when it comes to new and old stock.

Recent years have seen a rash of new developments spring up across the county – with property from Crossways in Dartford to Eureka in Ashford being snapped up no sooner than they are built. But with new build plans currently gathering cobwebs, could secondhand stock rise again to help feed the demand?

"Across the last 18 months," reflects Mr Wookey, "with banks tightening their lending and there being almost no speculative building in the county, people looking for property are now going back to the older stock."

Atrium's Vaughan Hughes thinks the result may be the opposite.

"Any company looking for business premises will be attracted to new units. There's a lot of secondhand stock, particularly in places like Ashford. It's 15 to 20 years old, the specifications aren't great and these guys can come along, get brand new units, great specifications and they're not much more expensive than the secondhand stuff at the moment due to the incentives being offered.

"Secondhand space can be subject to leases or whatever, which are not always the easiest things to assign because they may be subject to historic rents and the ability to be flexible with those tends to be restricted.

"As a result, the secondhand space does tend to stick around a little longer."

But despite all the challenges, let the last word remain with Mr Confidence – Locate in Kent's Paul Wookey.

"Kent is certainly in a stronger position than in previous recessions as the infrastructure for recovery is already there," he reflects.

"There is a momentum already there. A lot of developers have worked hard to get us in a good position to emerge from the recession.

"We are very optimistic of what the potential the future brings."

And let's all keep our fingers crossed for that.

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## Timeline

Kent on Sunday sport takes a look back at the county's sporting action of yesteryear

1909

**100 YEARS AGO:** THE Kent team selected to play London in a representative game at Bromley included six players from clubs now actually in London, including Woolwich Arsenal's H Oliver. (Kent would go on to win 2-1).

Oliver's side were thrashed 7-0 away to Blackburn Rovers, but in the Southern League, New Brompton's form was more impressive, as they beat Exeter 3-2 and Leyton 2-1 at Priestfield.

In the first qualifying round of the FA Cup, Ashford Railway Works and Chatham needed a second replay at Maidstone's Athletic Ground, after a 2-2 draw at Ashford and a 3-3 thriller in front of 1,500 fans in the first replay at Maidstone Road (The Chats eventually won 2-1).

Kent League champions Northfleet beat Sheppey United 6-5, while Cray beat Tonbridge 4-1.



**PETITION:** Locals voted in their hundreds to stop Brands Hatch circuit extension

1959

**50 YEARS AGO:** AROUND 700 people signed a petition against allowing an extension to the Brands Hatch racing circuit. The press were kept out of a site meeting and one of the opponents of the scheme claimed to have received an abusive, anonymous letter, which she turned over to the police.

Local residents were concerned the extended track would come too close to their gardens.

A crowd of 3,000 flocked to Southwood to watch the first ever floodlit game at Ramsgate, with the home side beating Ashford 3-1.

Canterbury City manager Roy Evans signed 18-year-old England youth international winger David Heard from Arsenal, but Dover's progress in the transfer market was hindered by the ongoing lack of a manager – although their supporters club could boast a membership of 6,800.

1984

**25 YEARS AGO:** GILLINGHAM pulled off one of their greatest ever comebacks, when they rescued a point from their Division Three game with Plymouth at Priestfield, having been 3-0 down.

Argyle, who reached the FA Cup semi-finals the previous season, were 2-0 up at the break and when they added a third three minutes after the restart, home fans started to head for the exits.

When Keith Oakes pulled one back four minutes later it looked like a mere consolation goal, but with six minutes to go Tony Cascarino made it 3-2 and three minutes from time Joe Hinnigan headed a dramatic equaliser.

Sub Paul Shinnars, making his debut after signing from Fisher, proved instrumental in the fight back, after replacing Mark Weatherly at half-time.

# County making most of revamped youth set-up

## 'Single system' aims to help hockey players fulfil their potential

By DAVID PRITCHARD

KENT is providing an example to the rest of the country in implementing England Hockey's revamped youth system, according to the county's new junior hockey co-ordinator.

The 'single system' initiative is aimed at providing a uniform pathway across England to make it easier to identify talented youngsters and help them progress through local and regional set-ups to national squads.

### Promising

The new system has shown encouraging signs since launching last year. James Daniels, who has recently taken over Kent's co-ordinator role from Canterbury forward Cathy Gilliat-Smith, believes the area is blazing a trail for other areas.

He said: "It's looking promising at the moment. I met with England Hockey's development officer and she had nothing but praise for the way things were set up.

"I think they're trying to take things from us and use them in the rest of the country."

Kent took the option of introducing the new format to one age group at a time, starting with the under-13s last year. Regional development centres were established in five venues across the county, with coaches recommending the best youngsters to the central academy, based

**TAKING THE INITIATIVE:** Revamped youth system aims to help players progress through to national level



in Maidstone. From this, the plan is for the elite to progress on to regional sides, one step from national squads.

Under the old system, players who shone at school or club level would go for a one-off trial, receiving relatively little coaching by comparison.

This year the programme is open to under-13s and 14s, with four of the centres already set up. Organisers are happy with the numbers, which are averaging 50-70 in each venue across the two age groups.

It will take until 2013 for all age groups in Kent to adopt the single system, but Daniels is confident it will achieve results in the long run.

He said: "There's now a very clear plan to develop young players. All the coaches at a regional level are centrally contracted and they are attached to the England set-up so are able to advise national coaches. They can also filter down information to a county level on what's needed, so it's a much better system."

## Kelly fighting hard for kids and county

DAME Kelly Holmes says she is trying to encourage the rest of the country to follow in the footsteps of the successful Kent School Games, *writes Glenn Pearson.*

Kent's double gold medallist attended the launch of the 2010 Kent School Games this week, which is intended to give more than 30,000 young people across the county a chance to compete in as many as 38 different sports.

The Games were launched at Hayesbrook Sports College in Tonbridge on Thursday with local heats set to start later this month, culminating in finals events in July next year.

Kent County Council leader Paul Carter, the man who came up with the idea for an event believed to be the biggest school sports event in Europe, talked of a continued decline of sport in schools over the last 10 years and how that needed to be rectified.

After the success of the inaugural Games in 2008, Holmes said there have been discussions with other counties and the ideal scenario would be for a national school games to coincide with London 2012.

"It's a massive event," she said. "There's nothing like it in the UK and I'm pushing for this to be replicated in other counties so we can have a national final in a national school games."



**SPECIAL GUEST:** Dame Kelly Holmes launched the Kent School Games this week

ing like it in the UK and I'm pushing for this to be replicated in other counties so we can have a national final in a national school games.

"It's at quite an early stage, but in the nearby counties such as Essex and Surrey, they are very keen on the model, because the

model is very good. Hopefully we can replicate it, but obviously it takes quite a lot of people to get something like this going.

"If we can start getting other counties doing it by 2011 with a big final for 2012, that would be fantastic."

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# Camier taking it to the Max

## WORLD STAGE:

Leon Camier will be riding something slightly more powerful in France

Picture: NICK DUNGAN



## No rest for new British champion as he joins up with Biaggi at World Superbikes meeting

By FRED ATKINS

LEON Camier might have been hoping for a few days to enjoy winning the British Superbike Championship, after clinching the title at Silverstone last weekend.

Instead the Ashford-born rider had to leave for France almost immediately, to partner Max Biaggi in the penultimate round of the World Superbike Championship on the Aprilia RSV4 this weekend. "This year has been incredible," Camier said, without understatement. "To follow my championship win with a ride on-board a proven race

winning machine in World Superbikes, is awesome.

"It's going to be a tough challenge for sure. There'll be no time for testing beforehand, and I've never ridden at Magny Cours, but I'm really looking forward to it."

Camier is used to being chucked in at the deep end. He has dominated this year's British Superbike series, with 17 wins, but he told Kent on Sunday he had no idea he would be so dominant.

"Before the season started the team had changed and we didn't test the bike at all," he admitted.

"I literally jumped on it at the first race not knowing what to expect, whether I'd be in the top 10 or the top 15.

"I have just got to say thanks to my team, GSE racing because they got it sorted in time and really pulled it out of the bag."

GSE have also agreed to temporarily release Camier from his contract to allow him to compete at Magny Cours, though he will return to the fold for the concluding race of the British season at Oulton Park next weekend.

He competed as a wildcard during the previous British round of the World series, coming 13th and sixth and has clearly got a taste for the global stage.

Asked about his plans for next season, Camier admits he's tempted to stay with GSE, but would prefer to take the step up.

"I'm just waiting at the moment, obviously there's a lot of stuff going on behind the scenes," he said.

"The team has lost the title sponsor Airwaves but we hope to find another. There's a chance to stay, but obviously I'm looking to move up to the World Championships."

## A good season all-round as Jones clinches award

WICKETKEEPER Geraint Jones has been named Kent player of the year for 2009, after an excellent season with both bat and gloves.

Promoted up the order to three, Jones hit five centuries in his best ever season with the bat, scoring 1,291 runs in the County Championship at an average of 51.64.

Jones said: "This means a lot to me because it is voted for by the members. I enjoyed a good season but so too did the likes of James Tredwell and Martin van Jaarsveld.

"Winning, ahead of some strong competition, is obviously pleasing for me."

Team-mate Martin Saggers was also on hand to present medals to some outstanding prospects at Kent's final game of the season with Northants last week.

The county's youth section won a clutch of titles, with the boys under-17s starring with an ECB championship and cup double.

The boys and girls under-15s were finalists and semi-finalists respectively in their



AWARD: Geraint Jones being presented the trophy by president Carl Openshaw

championships, while the under-13 and under-11 boys both won at the Taunton Festival – a feat matched by the under-11 girls at Arundel.



Picture: NICK DUNGAN

## Thrilling Touring finale at Brands

BRANDS Hatch will be the venue for possibly the most thrilling climax to the British Touring Car Championships in a decade this afternoon, with the stage set for a three-way fight for the title.

Leader Colin Turkington will have to fight off challenges from both Fabrizio Giovanardi and Jason Plato to win the title, while Brands director Jonathan Palmer has predicted a "huge" attendance at today's three crucial races.

"Sales for this weekend's event have been really strong and there will be a brilliant atmosphere for the BTCC season finale on the Brands Hatch Grand Prix circuit," the former Formula 1 driver said.

"We've laid on a superb package of family entertainment to compliment the stunning on-track action and we're expecting a huge crowd here."

Turkington has a 13-point lead over

Giovanardi, with Plato a further 15 points in arrears, but with a maximum of 45 points up for grabs from the three races, all three harbour realistic hopes of lifting the crown.

Reigning champion Giovanardi has won nine major crowns in the last 15 years, including his two BTCC titles in 2007 and 2008, but he acknowledges the gap to Turkington means he'll have to gamble this afternoon.

"I think I have to take some big risks at Brands Hatch," he said. "If I had been closer on points then maybe I could drive tactically, but this is not the case now. I am in for a really hard life on Sunday. I have nothing to lose so it could be the mind pressure that makes the difference."

Four of the five support series will also be settled this afternoon.

Trackside tickets can still be bought at the gate for £28, with under-12s admitted free.

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# Far reaching plans

GLENN PEARSON talks to new Kent head coach Paul Farbrace about his plans for the future, overseas options, and what has inspired him as a coach

**SPEAKING** to Paul Farbrace, you get the feeling the transitional period at Kent is not going to be a particularly bumpy one.

The county's new head coach arrived back in Kent for the final few weeks of the season, which included being involved in the last game of the summer, to see the squad up close and begin preparations for 2010. He returns with Rob Key still the club's skipper and old friend Simon Willis on the coaching staff, and is eager to continue the progression towards winning the County Championship, started by director of cricket, Graham Ford.

New additions, particularly in the bowling department, an overseas player that might be available for the whole summer and keeping Key are all top of the agenda.

Farbrace will have a big say in all of those after being given a chance to return to the county after more than two years coaching on the international stage.

Having been plucked from Kent's Academy

to take on the role as Sri Lanka's assistant coach and performed well, there's no doubting he has gained the experience that's a prerequisite to coaching a county side.

After leaving the relative safety of a position as Academy director at his native Kent, Farbrace took up the challenge of working with huge talents such as Muttiah Muralitharan, Mahela Jayawardene, Kumar Sangakkara and latterly mystery spinner Ajantha Mendis, with Sri Lanka in 2007.

## Lure

His impact on those players was not lost on the Sri Lankan board, who offered him another longer contract to stay with the national team.

The lure of returning to Kent was too much and the chance to work alongside Key and Willis presented an opportunity too good to turn down.

The 42-year-old will continue to work with outgoing director of cricket, Graham Ford, who encouraged Farbrace to go for the job with Sri Lanka two years ago. The South African has clearly had a positive impact on the former Kent wicketkeeper, who hopes to continue benefiting from his experience.

"He is certainly one of the best I have worked with in terms of quickly understanding a player and working out what they want and need," he said. "He can be a very good technical coach and is also good mentally and is calm under pressure. His simple approach



**NEW DAWN:** Kent's new head coach Paul Farbrace in the St Lawrence nets last week

has been beneficial for all of us, both players and coaches."

That is likely to continue as Ford takes up a consultancy role from South Africa, which

Farbrace believes can, and will, work.

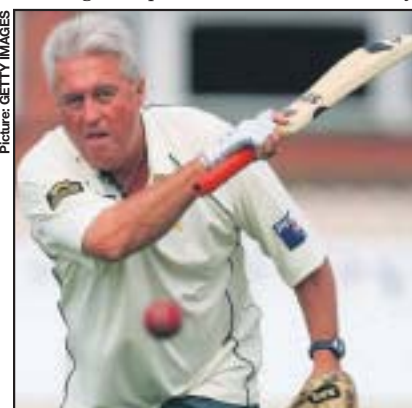
"Working with him in the winter and next summer is an ongoing thing and when he looks at his timetable back in South Africa and we get into what ours is likely to be, we'll go from there," he said. "It would be silly to make definite plans, we have a few good ideas of how things can work and we are putting one or two things in place in terms of this winter. It's going to be something that is quite fluid and we will be an opportunity to bounce things off each other."

While Farbrace has come to appreciate working with the likes of Ford and Bob Woolmer, there's no question he is his own man and will bring a slightly different approach to coaching the side next summer.

"In the modern game, it's not about a coach being driven by his own ego and being centre stage it's about being a coach that is there to help and support players."

"I think every coach is different and we all have our ways of doing things, but you learn from people like Ford in terms of his approach."

"When I went into coaching I noticed there was bits I picked up from all the coaches I have worked with. Bob Woolmer is the best coach that I have been lucky enough to work with."



**INFLUENCE:** Paul Farbrace has worked with the likes of the late Bob Woolmer

## Bowlers top of shopping list

KENT will spend the majority of the winter shopping for bowlers to bolster their attack for an assault on the County Championship next year.

The bowling unit will no longer include Ryan McLaren and Martin Sagers, both having departed at the end of the season, making seam bowlers top of the shopping list this Christmas.

Farbrace said: "You are always looking at your team and thinking that you need reinforcements. Bowling is an area where you always want reinforcements and bowling-wise that would be pretty good to bolster."

"I think over a period of time it's something we will look at and see what's

available, but ultimately we aren't going to sign people for the sake of it, they have to come in and produce and be as good, or better, than what we have got."

The county had Wayne Parnell as an overseas player for just 13 of 44 games last season, largely due to visa issues, and that could again rear its ugly head next summer.

Farbrace wouldn't be drawn on whether his links with Sri Lanka would help net an overseas player for next season, instead saying it's again unlikely that an international cricketer will be available for the whole summer.

"Is it one person for the whole season? That would be ideal but is unlikely to happen with the amount of competitions going on around the world," he said. "The chances of getting someone in for the whole season, I think is going to be remote."

"Maybe we look at one for the first half of the season and another for the second."

## 'I hope Key's future is at Kent'

PAUL Farbrace says he "sincerely" hopes skipper Rob Key will turn his back on advances from Surrey and remain at Kent.

The Kent captain has been the subject of rumours for several weeks, with Surrey believed to be interested in acquiring his services.

But Farbrace said he has not

talked to Key about the rumours and hopes the captain will commit to staying beyond when his contract expires at the end of 2010.

"It's not something I have even spoken to him about. The conversations we have had are about the winter and next season and there's no indication that he will be any-

thing other than a Kent player."

"I desperately hope he is a Kent player, but we are well aware at the same time that we could lose him to the national side as well."

"He has done a great job as captain, both on and off the field and I sincerely hope his future is here at Kent because he has done a great job."



**UNCERTAINTY:** Rob Key

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# Slow road to recovery frustrates speedy Mac

Picture: ADY KERRY



**FAST LANE:** Mark McCammon raced Dwain Chambers (right) as a teenager

## Ex-sprinter McCammon aims to make a fast start on return

By **DAVID PRITCHARD**

FOR someone who spent his youth sprinting against British athlete Dwain Chambers, Mark McCammon is getting depressingly familiar with going nowhere fast.

The Gillingham striker is hoping to return to the first-team next week after recovering from the most recent in a series of injury setbacks he has endured since joining the club 15 months ago.

After an encouraging start to the season, the latest problem with his troublesome hamstrings has kept him out for a month, triggering the by-now routine process of rehabilitation and recovery.

"It's frustrating," he told Kent on Sunday. "My momentum was going and I felt like I was getting a rhythm. I always say because of my size it takes seven or eight games to get match fit."

"I did athletics when I was younger so I know my body and what my top capabilities are. I was getting to that stage after doing the whole of pre-season, which was a bonus, and then to get held back now was devastating for me."

At 31, McCammon is fully aware he is entering the latter stages of a career which began 12 years ago at Cambridge United, taking in seven clubs before arriving at Priestfield.

It could have been very different for the tall striker, who as a teenager was a promising sprinter doubling up in the 100 and 200 metres.

He said: "When I was 16 or 17 I was one of the quickest in the country. I raced Dwain Chambers a few times; he was a top athlete and superior to everyone else."

"But I got snapped up by Cambridge



Picture: GETTY IMAGES

United and became a footballer. Sometimes I do think about it, but it's history. I still remember doing sports days, it was a great time to run but I'm a footballer now and I'm focused on having a great end to my career."

The striker is likely to make his return as a substitute in Tuesday night's game at home to Norwich in the Johnstone's Paint Trophy. The competition is not high on the priority list, but after reaching the final with Brentford and Doncaster – the latter winning in 2007 – McCammon is keen to stress the benefits.

He said: "It's a great experience, especially for younger players. It's another day out at Wembley, so you've got to take it seriously. Professionalism is the most important thing in football so we've got to go out there with the right frame of mind."



**DEPARTURE:** Graham Ford with Kent coach Simon Willis this summer

## Ford's departure typifies the man

GRAHAM Ford's quiet departure from Kent before the end of the season perhaps typifies the man, but not his influence at St Lawrence, writes **Glenn Pearson**.

Kent's director of cricket returned to South Africa before last weekend's Pro40 game with Northamptonshire to take up the position of head coach at South African state side, Nashua Dolphins.

He will continue to work with the club on a consultancy basis, helping new head coach Paul Farbrace and Simon Willis, which will include some of the county's youngsters being sent to South Africa to work with the 48-year-old.

Graham Johnson, Kent's chairman of cricket, said the new coaching regime will benefit the players and insists Ford will continue to play a part at the club.

"People have talked about Graham Ford's legacy but neither of us see it that way," he said. "The players will talk a lot to him during the winter and looking forward with Paul Farbrace coming in as first-team coach, having Graham in the background will help. It's a pretty flexible arrangement and they are clear what their responsibilities are and I'm confident that with the quality of players and coaches we have got, it's going to produce a good result."

The former South Africa coach joined the county in 2005, transforming the club's fortunes from being an average side to one of the best limited overs cricket teams in the country. Kent won the Twenty20 Cup in 2007 and Division Two of the County Championship this summer under Ford, but he will no doubt look back at missing out at Twenty20 finals day for the last two years, the Lord's final of 2008 and relegation from the championship last summer, as ones that got away.

For Johnson, who has worked with Ford for the four years he has been at St Lawrence, the club is in a much healthier state than it was before he arrived.

He said: "Fordie has done a lot for Kent and will continue to do so. He has helped build the foundations of a team that is competitive in four and one-day cricket."

# Respect for refs but ditch pink shirts, says Stimson

THE Football Association's Respect programme is beginning to make tangible progress in Kent, notably with the long-term decline in the number of referees reversed in the last year, writes **David Pritchard**.

The Kent County Football Association (KCFA) presented their findings last month after the initiative's first full season since being formally launched nationwide in August last year.

The long-term project is aimed at stopping abuse in the game, especially towards the man with the whistle.

A key indicator is the number of qualified referees taking charge of games. For years the number had been falling in Kent, but there are now 131 more referees in the county than 12 months ago.

Paul Dolan, KCFA county development manager, told Kent on Sunday: "The fact we've bucked the trend shows the programme has had a massive impact."

Cautions for dissent dropped 12 per cent in the 2008/09 season from the year before,

further evidence the programme is having an effect.

Phil Knight referees games in the county up to Blue Square South level. While admitting there is still a long way to go, he backs up the KCFA's findings.

He said: "I don't think anybody is going to pretend all the problems have gone away, but I think there is a noticeable difference."

"The relationship with captains is getting better, they are much more aware of the role they can play in supporting referees."

### Target

So far 26 youth and adult leagues in Kent have signed up to the programme, just over two-thirds of the total.

This season the aim is to continue educating those leagues and target the remainder on the outside, with the goal of becoming the first county in England to have 100 per cent commitment.

Barry Bright, KCFA chairman and FA vice-chairman, is setting his goal even higher.

He said: "The obvious ambition one day is that we have a referee for every game in the county. That would be a huge task, but if everyone works together it's amazing what you can achieve."

Events in the professional game can have a hugely negative trickle-down effect to grassroots. Dolan says months of hard work can be undone by a single high-profile event in the Premier League, behaviour which is then mimicked thousands of times over.

Gillingham manager Mark Stimson acknowledges the important role professionals play. An enthusiastic backer of the Respect programme, he does have one criticism.

"I think the referees should change the colours of their shirts because I don't think it helps them at all," he said. "They get enough abuse, but as soon as they walk out on the pitch wearing the pink shirts I think people laugh at them."

"They set themselves up for it, I think it's a crazy decision to put a referee in a pink shirt."



**PRETTY IN PINK:** Gills boss Mark Stimson says pink shirts make refs a laughing stock



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Leon Camier to ride something more powerful today **85**



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## FOOTBALL

Mark McCammon on the slow road to recovery for Gills **87**

### EXCLUSIVE

See inside for full interview with new Kent head coach, Paul Farbrace

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# WE BELONG AT THE TOP, SAYS FARBY



NEW REGIME: Paul Farbrace believes Kent have the players to compete in Division One of the County Championship next season

KENT'S new head coach insists the club have nothing to fear when they return to Division One of the County Championship next season, *writes Glenn Pearson.*

In an exclusive interview with Kent on Sunday, Paul Farbrace sets out how the new coaching regime will work at St Lawrence, where the club needs to

strengthen to play Division One cricket, and what type of overseas player they will be looking to recruit.

With Ryan McLaren and Martin Saggers having departed, the seam bowling unit looks threadbare, particularly should there be any injuries to the likes of Amjad Khan, Robbie Joseph or Simon Cook.

Farbrace said the club are working on adding to their playing staff, but he also strongly believes the county have good

enough players to compete in the top tier of domestic cricket.

"I think all of the players are itching to get back into Division One, playing against the best teams," he said. "It's a challenge, but not one we should be nervous about. There are some quality players in the squad and it's a chance for them to show what they can do."

"We should be no way, shape or form, be nervous about it, I think we should be looking to get stuck in."

Picture: GETTY IMAGES